



A Message from the School Director

Greetings MMLA Family!

This week I would like to share an article with you that was published in *The Detroit News* on March 29, 2018. Please read the column published below.

Tim Tenneriello
School Director

FIXING MICHIGAN SCHOOLS: THE ROLE OF PARENTS ***Not Supporting Your Kid's Education is Child Neglect*** by Doug Ross

We all agree that a parent that starves their child is guilty of child neglect. So too a parent that never takes their child to the dentist or doctor, or fails to make sure the child has the proper shots. All of these failings can seriously cripple a child's future.

I believe the same is true for a parent that does not support their child's education. Without a good education that includes a post-secondary degree or certificate, a person's prospects for a prosperous and successful life are seriously damaged.

A parent's income and level of education are powerful predictors of how a child will perform in school. But those are not things we can easily control once we are parents. Parent neglect results from not doing those things we can control, whether we are wealthy or are just scraping by, or have a college degree or dropped out of high school.

Most research says that what a parent does with their child at home as well as with their child and his teachers at school matters. As a former teacher, principal, and Detroit charter superintendent, these are the parental actions I believe matter most:

1. Read a story to your child every night before he or she goes to bed starting at infancy. Virtually everyone believes this helps prepare a child to read as well as creates a strong parent-child bond. The Detroit Kiwanis Club gives out thousands of free children's books each year to those who can't afford them.
2. Constantly tell your child that education is very important, that you expect her to do well in school, and that doing well is about hard work. Unless she is developmentally disabled, your child has the intelligence to be a good student.

We found in our schools in Detroit that we could increase a child's performance by repeatedly telling each student that we expected great things of them — including graduating from high school and going on to college. Being told regularly by your mother or father that you are smart and expected to do well is even more effective. Even if some of us had parents that called us "stupid," it is a cardinal sin if you want your child to be a good student.

3. Unless your child has a severe learning disability, tell them you won't settle for anything less than A's and B's on their report card. C students are simply those that don't work hard, turn in homework, study for tests, and focus in class. Any student who makes getting good grades a priority should get A's and B's. What you expect from your child is what you'll get. So set high expectations.
4. Stay in touch with your child's teachers. If you are not in personal contact with your child's teachers, there is no way to work with them to help your child succeed. Teachers are the ones who really know how your child is doing, and most care. Should you work hours that prevent you from attending parent-teacher meetings, arrange to talk to the teacher by phone or meet at school at a time that works for you. If the school won't make such arrangements, look for a public school that will.
5. Organize time and space at home for your child to do their studying and homework. A lot of us can't help our children with their homework, and certainly not their math. But we can try to clear out a table or desk in the quietest corner of the house away from the TV where your child can put in the one to three hours of work most schools require to do well.

I've had parents who work the afternoon shift that ask their oldest child to prepare dinner and put the younger children to bed, leaving the caretaking child little time for school work. There is often no easy solution, but depriving your child of the time to study robs them of the school success that life success requires. It's not meant to harm the child, but it does.

If you are a single working parent who is raising a child with little financial resource, doing all of these things is harder. However, to do less is to neglect your child in a way that may rob him of his opportunities for a successful life. There is no way to sugarcoat this hard reality.

Doug Ross is a former U.S. assistant secretary of labor, founder of the University Prep Schools, former chief innovation officer of Detroit Public Schools and co-founder of American Promise Schools.

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2018/03/29/michigan-education-neglect/33365249/>

Students of the Month – March

KA Christina Emens

KB Zuri Davis

1A Kayden Harris

1B Isaac Oski

2A Jontae Metcalfe

2B Bilan Chala

3A Brooklin Bunn

3B Dakota Kristofferson

4 Enessence Toski-Collier

5 Jacob Thompson

6 Anterria Tatum

7 Dai'Shanay Barber-Lake

8 Cheniya Rogers





Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy

Academics

Our 5th and 8th graders kicked off M-Step this week. The effort they put in to their exams was phenomenal! We are all very proud of the great start they gave us to the testing season. They will be continuing with M-Step over the next week before the other grades window opens on the 30th. You can help by ensuring that your student is at school on time having had a healthy breakfast either at home or school and by pumping them full of positivity on their way out the door. We are looking forward to continuing a successful testing time.



Despite the M-Step and MAP testing, it is important to remember that school is still going as usual. Students are expected to participate fully and properly in class, complete homework and be ready for exams. There are still several weeks left in the school year and it is important that everyone puts in their full effort through the very end. Remember, finals are worth 40-50% of their final grade and cover material learned throughout the entire year.

Barb Rooker
Academic Quality Controller

Kindergarten Round Up – May 17

Do you know a family with students entering kindergarten next year, or in any grade looking for a change in their child’s educational institution? **Family recommendations are the best way to grow our community – please consider sharing our school with a friend, neighbor, or family member with young children.**

On Thursday, May 17 from 4:00-6:00pm MMLA will be hosting an Enrollment Open House and Kindergarten Round Up. There will be giveaways and opportunities to tour the school, kindergarten classrooms, meet the kindergarten teaching staff and more!

Not available to attend the event?

There are three steps they can take to apply:

- Visit us online at mmla.sabis.net
- Come into the office to complete an application
- Contact Mr. Caldwell for more information at ecaldwell@sabis.net or 517-827-1276.

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www.mmla.sabis.net

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 2nd Monday of each month.

* **School Closings and Delays** * will be posted on the MMLA [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mmla.sabis) Page www.facebook.com/mmla.sabis

- April 26 Parent Connection Meeting 3:45 PM
- May 15 Yearbook Orders Due
- May 17 Enrollment Open House and Kindergarten Round-Up 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- May 24 Annual Ice Cream Social with special guest Lucas Holiday 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- May 25 Last Day of School before Memorial Break
NO AFTERCARE, NO BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

View our Annual School Calendar at mmla.sabis.net

Student Life Organization®

Greetings all of those who support our MMLA Lions!!!

Exciting times here at MMLA! We are making the big push for the end of the year!

We are now starting a new round of clubs for our middle school students. We have DJ Diamond here every week talking, teaching and having fun with music every week. We also have a fabulous group of ladies from Olivet College working with our aspiring College bound students. Teachers are talking about Current Events, book talks, and we will even be playing Disk golf! So many good things going on!

So get with our Middle School Students and find out just some of the things they have going on.

Brooks Yates
Student Life® Coordinator

Ice Cream Social – May 24

The Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy is excited to invite the city to the annual MMLA Stevie Wonder Birthday Celebration and Ice Cream Social scheduled for 4:00 PM on Thursday, May 24 in the MMLA gymnasium. There will be ice cream and toppings for all. We are thrilled to bring some of the former Michigan School for the Blind Teachers, Alumni, Blind Childrens Fund (BCF) Board and family members back to campus to share with us as we bring the campus back to life to celebrate MSB Alumnus Stevie Wonder. We will also have a special guest performance by Lucas Holiday. Lucas is a Lansing resident that performed on NBC’s The Voice.



For more information please contact Mr. Elvin Caldwell Jr. at ecaldwell@sabis.net or 517-827-1276.