Eureka! State-of-the-Art Chemistry Lab Opens at ITA

We are proud to announce our brand new science lab is open and ready for our students to begin testing hypotheses and conducting experiments. The lab is fully equipped with cutting edge technology such as 3-D printing and the latest in digital technology. The Chemistry Lab is one of several recent updates made by the District through its Sinking Fund improvement plan.

School Safety Remains Top Priority

PSD expands security team and resources

Keeping our students, staff and community safe is a top priority for PSD. In these ever-changing times, schools across the country are continuously looking to increase and expand their safety protocols and resources. We are incredibly fortunate to have recently received a $1.2 million grant to increase our security systems and cameras across the district. This ability to add new state-of-the-art technology at all our schools will positively enhance the safety of our buildings and all inside. In addition, we are currently piloting some potentially highly effective additional security options.

We are very excited to announce the addition of our new Interim Chief of Security, Val Gross, and an expanded staff of security officers. We continue to have a cohesive and collaborative working relationship with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, and we all remain tirelessly committed to ensuring Pontiac Schools are safe and secure for all.
Greetings from Superintendent Williams

Dear Pontiac School District Families and Community Members,

As this school year unfolds, I am already so proud of the achievements of our students and faculty. One of our students was awarded our first-ever “DAPCEP-Real McCoy Award for Science.” We were named a Harvard Pilot Week Top 3 School for our students’ participation in the Poetry in America course. A number of our faculty have been named National Life Group Life Changer Nominees. And these are just a handful of the accomplishments that are happening at the outset of the year.

These recognitions are indicative of the spirit our school district has to soar in the face of adversity and to achieve greatness together.

Yes, we still have our challenges, as so many districts across our region do, but we are on a trajectory for incredible success and we are excited.

We have a great deal of new staff on board, and more are being hired on a daily basis. These new hires bring a fresh spirit and experiences from other districts that they are quickly applying effectively to our classrooms. This, married with the longevity, loyalty and talent of our veteran staffers, is providing us with a wonderful hybrid of the best of all worlds.

The improvements across our district from our Sinking Fund and generous gifts from partners have allowed us to bring cutting edge resources and building improvements to our students and staff. Our new Chemistry Lab is the envy of many and we are looking forward to classes diving in to use it firsthand this month. We still have more to do and we have plans for how to get it done that will benefit our community as a whole.

I appreciate our community’s fierce passion and desire for our district to excel. I share that sentiment and will not rest until we are truly there. I can tell you we are well on our way.

I look forward to sharing more exciting things with you throughout the 2019-2020 school year and celebrating together our triumphs.

Sincerely,
Kelley Williams
Superintendent
Pontiac School District

Greetings from Board President Williams

The general consensus is that spring is the season of new beginnings, but I beg to differ. For those of us in the Pontiac School District, fall is the time we start anew. With the chill in the air comes a renewed commitment and excitement from your Board of Education to help make this the best year possible for the students and the community. Accomplishing this goal is a team effort, done with the combined resources of the Board, students, parents and caretakers, and educators.

For students, a lot of new things come with the first months of the school year — new teachers, classes, schedules, rules, and friends. Some will have new schools as they transition from elementary to middle school, or middle to high school. Some might even be brand new to the district. Whatever their circumstances, it is our goal to help make these adjustments a positive experience.

Parents or caretakers will have new routines and policies to stay on top of to help their student thrive. As we get into the rhythm of the new school year, we recognize that all the changes affecting students will also affect their parents or caretakers.

Educators experience new beginnings as well, with some transferring to new buildings or teaching new classes. And some might be just starting out in our district. Regardless, they will work hard to make sure students are taught using the most current information and educational philosophies in order to help them become successful citizens of Pontiac and the world.

With these new beginnings, everyone shares new challenges. The Board is with you every step of the way to communicate with, support, and represent the members of the Pontiac community. We are excited and ready to help make the 2019-2020 school year a success for the Pontiac students, parents, educators, and community!

Sincerely,
Sherman Williams II
President, Pontiac School District Board of Education

Board of Trustees

Vice President Kenyada Bowman
Treasurer ShaQuana Davis-Smith
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Our Strive and Drive partnership with Joe Lunghamer Chevrolet is back and bigger than ever as it evolves to Strive and Drive to Thrive for the 2019-2020 school year. This incredible attendance incentive for students across all grade levels has been a huge success since its inception, with one lucky student each year being awarded with $10,000 or a car. Students qualify simply by showing exceptional attendance over the school year and are rewarded with qualifying raffle tickets.

With the evolution to Strive and Drive to Thrive, the $10,000 grand prize will still be awarded at the Back to School Rally, but this year second and third cash prizes will also be given. Now students who qualify will have even more opportunities to win.

Additionally, fun prizes and incentives will be offered throughout the year to students in school to further build hype and excitement.

Stay tuned for additional details and remember that coming to school on a daily basis can be the key to students’ future successes.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. DeSheil L. Echols to the Pontiac School District family. Dr. Echols is our new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and we are excited for her to bring her new ideas and experience to the position. She comes to us from Detroit Public Schools and holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration from Eastern Michigan University, so we know we are in good hands. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Echols to Pontiac!

School comes with a lot of challenges, not all of which are academic. The PSD is always in need of school supplies, along with other donations for classrooms, for athletics, and for our programs in the Arts. We also welcome donations in the form of clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies for our students who are currently without a permanent home. We are extremely grateful to the generous organizations, companies, and individuals who have already donated items and given their time.

Their kindness has helped students focus on classes rather than worry about things no child should have to.
SOARING IN PONTIAC
Did You Know?

Pontiac School District Students have unrivaled access to scholarships, grants, and internship opportunities?

Last year alone we had students receive scholarships from:
- Harvard University
- United Way
- Oakland University- Wade McCree Scholarship
- Promise Zone
- Williams International- Trade Scholarship

We have been chosen because these organizations see something special in our students. They see that our students are poised to do amazing things if certain financial barriers are lifted, and want to help get them there.

Pontiac Parent University (PPU) is offering a number of informative and engaging programs and events for parents and families this fall. PPU is sponsored by the OU-Pontiac Initiative and provides opportunities and educational resources to increase parent involvement in our schools. Events cover a variety of topics and are beneficial to families with students of all ages. Whether you are looking to understand FAFSA, or uncovering the best tips for writing a college essay, PPU can help. Follow them on Facebook for a full list of upcoming events.
We know that we all live in a fast-paced world and getting important information to our families quickly is imperative. This is why we are pleased to announce that we launched a new communication platform November 1st. Q Communications Powered by Signal Kit will allow you to receive news and announcements in the way you want to: phone, e-mail, SMS, direct message. It’s an easy tool to use and works directly with MiStar. Look for more information coming soon! Additionally, we are also rolling out FirstActs. This app will give you immediate access to transportation information, updates and more. Both of these tools are used successfully by many of our fellow districts and we can’t wait to use them here in Pontiac! Please make sure that you have current contact information connected to your student’s profile. If you do not have a current e-mail and/or phone number in the system, please contact student.services@pontiacschools.org or call 248.451.7527.

We are proud to celebrate the fourth graduating class of our Patient Care Technician Program with Oakland University. These students’ hands-on experience and training with top healthcare professionals have placed them at the top for launching careers in the medical field. Well done students! We know patients are in great hands with each of you!
The Pontiac School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation (subject to the limits of applicable law), age, genetic information, or disability in its programs, services, activities or employment opportunities. Inquiries related to employment discrimination should be directed to the Director of Human Resources at 248.451.6865. 47200 Wodward Ave, Pontiac, MI 48342. For all other inquiries related to discrimination, contact the Director of Legal Affairs at 248.451.6802.