



SUMMER 2016

WWW.BADAXEPS.ORG

BLUE & GOLD GAZETTE

BAD AXE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

BEGIN YOUR HATCHET STORY- NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION

Looking to start your child with a well-rounded, high quality educational experiences? Are you new or know someone new to the Bad Axe area? Then contact one of our offices to enroll your child for the upcoming school year. Bad Axe Public Schools also participates in Schools of Choice. In fact, nearly 25% of last year's student body registered under schools of choice. Contact information for our schools is:

Kdg-3rd Grade – Bad Axe Elementary

Phone: 269-2736

Address: 404 Hatchet Dr.

Sheryl Jahn, Secretary

Sharon Brighton, Principal

8th-12th Grade- Bad Axe High School

Phone: 269-9593

Address: 200 N. Barrie Rd

Denice Palmer, Secretary

Kurt Dennis, Principal

4th-7th Grade – Bad Axe Middle School

Phone: 269-2735

Address: 750 N. Van Dyke

Tammie Holz, Secretary

Pete Batzer, Principal

HS Alternative Ed- Ascent High School

Phone: 269-2737

Address: 310 N. Outer Drive

Betty Durr, Secretary

Russ Clark, Principal

NEW PRINCIPAL LOOKS “BRIGHT” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Sharon Brighton, new principal at Bad Axe Elementary, comes to us from Temperance, Michigan (between Monroe, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio). She brings fourteen years of experience as an elementary principal in Monroe County. She earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and her Master's degree in reading from The University of Toledo. She completed coursework for her administrative certificate through Eastern Michigan University.

Sharon and her husband, Bob, are in the process of moving to Bad Axe. They have three adult daughters and six grandchildren that they love to wind up. They enjoy camping, biking, reading, baseball (GO TIGERS), walking with their dogs, Sophie and Biddy, and high school wrestling. Mrs. Brighton maintains an open-door policy in her office. Feel free to stop by and say hello.

COLLEGE ADVISOR GRANT ADDS SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, a new college advisor will be working full-time in the BAHS Counseling Office. The College Advisor will be available to work with all students on topics such as: college applications, FAFSA, scholarship opportunities, career planning, college readiness, and much more. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this

opportunity in conjunction with the services already offered in the BAHS Counseling Office to better prepare for the transition to life after high school.

This position is the result of the district applying to participate in a grant offered through the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). After the grant application was submitted by High School Counselor Mrs. Ball (Cole) and Principal Mr. Dennis, MCAN notified the district that the application was accepted. Our new College Advisor selected is Colleen Hooks who will be working daily this year with our students to be a resource for our students in planning for their future.

FACELIFT ON THE HARDWOOD

As students get ready to return to school, they will notice a big change that took place over the summer months in the gymnasium. The gym floor underwent a major renovation with it being resurfaced this summer using the sinking fund millage that was passed back in 2013. In addition the remaining parts of the high school roof which included the areas above the gym, cafeterium, and media center was also completed this past summer.

The gym floor is the original flooring that was laid back when the high school building was built twenty years ago. The project entailed the floor being sanded by Cedar Creek Flooring out of Delton, MI. "An average gymnasium floor is resurfaced about every fifteen years," shared Cynthia Milligan, co-owner of Cedar Creek Flooring. "This floor has been very well maintained by the custodial staff over the years as evidenced by it being over twenty years old, but it was the right time for this work to take place." Milligan added.



With the wooden floor being sanded, it also led to the opportunity to create a new design for the main court that is used daily for physical education classes as well as practices and games for basketball and volleyball. "Our main goal was to have a design that best represented the uniqueness of being Hatchets," said Superintendent Greg Newland. "It was a slam dunk, pun intended, to make sure that the Hatchet logo was a prominent feature of the floor as well as adding the Bad Axe name to the baseline." Newland added, "When someone enters the gym for the first time, they will definitely know that they're in Hatchet country."

TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS BEGINS

Through the support of the Bad Axe community who passed the technology bond proposal last May, work began this summer to implement phase I improvements throughout the district. There were five main projects that took place this summer. The projects included installation of cabling in the high school media center and online learning classroom, installing a district data back-up system, upgrading the phone system, installing informational kiosks, and upgrading computer equipment. Through a federal grant, the district also installed wireless cabling for access to the network throughout the district buildings.

The next phase will begin this fall and move into winter with plans to upgrade the building security systems which includes surveillance cameras, public address systems in the gymnasiums, access controls to building entrances, district clock systems, and exterior informational signage at the main school entrance.

NEW ADDRESS? LET US KNOW

If you have moved over the summer months, please contact your child's school to update your mailing address and contact information. This will help ensure any information that is sent home will be delivered to the correct location. Also if any contact information changes during the course of the school year including cell phone numbers, emergency contacts, and address please contact us as soon as possible so those changes can be made to your child's file.

OPEN HOUSE SET FOR AUGUST 31:

On Wednesday, August 31, parents and students will have the opportunity to attend the district wide Open House from 6:00-7:30 p.m. At the open house, parents and students will be able to visit with their teacher(s), learn and practice their locker combination, and receive general information about the upcoming school year. Students in grades 6-12 will receive their class schedules during the evening's event.

SIGN UP FOR THE REMIND APP

Bad Axe Schools uses the REMIND app for parents, students, teachers, and staff for notifications in the event of a school cancellation, delay, early release, other important information. REMIND is an app available to you using an iPhone or Android device to receive messages via push notifications, text message, or email. All attempts will be made to limit messages for these purposes only. Parents will need to "opt-in" if you desire to receive these messages to your phone or email.

You can "opt-in" by the following methods:

1. Download the REMIND app from iTunes App Store or Google Play and when prompted enter the class code @basn.
2. Or join via SMS by texting the number (989) 321-2359 with the message @basn.
3. Or visit the link www.remind.com/join/basn



Those who wish not to take part will still be able to learn of school cancellations and delays through the local media such as WLEW radio, television, Facebook page (Bad Axe Public Schools), or Twitter (@BA_Hatchets).

WHAT IS THE ASCENT HIGH SCHOOL?

Ascent High School is an alternative to the traditional high school classroom setting set up for students within Huron County. Ascent High School is located in the former Greene Elementary Building and is part of Bad Axe Public Schools. The program offers smaller class sizes and personalized instruction. Staff and students work cooperatively to create a personalized learning environment. Ascent is not designed to be an easier way, but a different way for students to earn their high school diploma.



Ascent High School is designed for:

- Students in the 9th – 12th grade (up to 20 years old, depending on birthdate);
- Students currently behind in credits;
- Students that will not graduate with their designated high school class;
- Teen parents;
- Students with poor high school performance;
- Students that have recently dropped out of high school;
- Students that desire a non-traditional academic environment;
- Students that prefer to learn in a variety of ways;
- Students who desire a high school diploma rather than a GED.

Students are referred to the Ascent from a variety of sources. Local school districts, parents, grandparents, or other interested parties are encouraged to contact the Ascent High School office to schedule an interview. This process also is approved through the local school district. Students are admitted periodically during the year. All students and an adult advocate must participate in an interview with the Principal and teaching staff if they desire to enroll. Interviews are conducted to determine if the student and the Ascent High School program are a good fit for each other.

The goal of Ascent High School is to help each student reach his/her ultimate potential while earning a high school diploma. Students receiving the maximum benefit and achieving the highest degree of success should generally be able to do the following:

- Be motivated from within
 - Work independently
 - Positively contribute verbally and/or physically in small or large group activities
 - Be willing to read assigned material and write reflectively
 - Adapt quickly to change
 - Be willing to try (to the best of their ability) everything
- the instructors ask of them
 - Take responsibility for their own actions
 - Respect themselves and others
 - Work as part of a team – Be willing to give and receive help to/from other students
 - Participate in all activities and do their best to help create the best possible school environment for EVERY student!

Ascent High School students are required, by the state of Michigan, to meet ALL the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. This is the same as any other high school student. We require 24 credits to be obtained to graduate. These requirements are met via direct instruction and utilizing various online curriculum programs. Core academic curriculum and electives are delivered primarily through direct instruction and self-paced online courses.

ANNUAL TITLE PARENT MEETING

Bad Axe Public Schools receive Title I funds to help support programs offered in the school. To learn more about the Title programs offered at Bad Axe Public Schools, please attend our annual Title meeting which will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library prior to the district Open House.

BAD AXE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Board of Education meetings take place on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center. The following dates have been set through the reorganization meeting in January.

August 22, 2016
November 28, 2016

September 26, 2016
December 19, 2016*
*Meeting one week earlier due to holidays.

October 24, 2016
January 23, 2017**
**Reorganizational Meeting

SHOW YOUR HATCHET SPIRIT & IT'S FREE

All Hatchet students will once AGAIN will be able to attend HOME athletic events for FREE this year to help with the "home field advantage"! This began last season to encourage more students of all grades to get more involved in school spirit. Students in K-12 will be issued an athletic pass at the beginning of the school year that will need to be shown at the ticket table in order to enter the event for free. Students in grades K-7 must be accompanied by an adult/guardian in order to enter for free as well.

Please note that this does not apply to any fundraising tournaments or games as well as any MHSAA postseason tournaments that the district may host. So, don your BLUE & GOLD and come on out and cheer your fellow Hatchets on!

CREATING A LEGACY THROUGH THE HATCHET FUND

The Hatchet Fund was created last fall through the Huron County Community Foundation. The Hatchet Fund is set up to benefit Bad Axe Schools for years to come. School funds are a great way for alumni, employees, and communities to support local schools permanently by giving to an endowment.

Gifts to the fund will provide support for academic and extracurricular programs such as classroom projects, classroom equipment, field trips, fine arts programs, and more. Bad Axe joined other schools in the county and across the state who have created such a fund that helps donors know that their donation will be sustainable and has an impact for the students. Once the fund has grown through HCCF, the distributing of the money will be determined through a committee using a mini-grant application process. Help from our great community is welcomed and needed to get the fund endowed.

If you would like to make a gift to the Hatchet Fund, please make checks out to HCCF, writing Hatchet Fund in the Memo line, and send them to the Huron County Community Foundation at PO 56, Bad Axe. Gifts via credit card can be made online at www.huroncountycommunityfoundation.org. HCCF is a 501(c)3 organization that can accept estate gifts, in lieu of gifts, stocks, investments, gifts of land and crops. You can contact the Foundation for more details on supporting the Hatchet Fund at 269-2850 or by visiting the HCCF website listed above.

SENIOR CLASS OF 2017- IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SAT Saturday Testing Dates:

- Oct. 1, 2016 (Deadline: Sept. 1st)
- Nov. 5, 2016 (Deadline: Oct. 7th)
- Dec. 3, 2016 (Deadline: Nov 3rd)

FAFSA:

- **NEW!** - Beginning with the Class of 2017, seniors can begin filing their FAFSA on October 1, 2016. This is a change from previous years when applicants could start filing for financial aid on January 1st.

Transcripts:

- Remember – once a senior has applied to a college, they should inform the BAHS Counseling Office in order to have their high school transcript sent to the correct institution.

Scholarships:

- Register on national scholarship sites.
- Begin collecting information you might need for scholarships (activities, recommendations, essays).
- Remember: If you have to pay money, IT IS A SCAM!!

Websites to Watch:

BAHS Counselor Website (scholarship, SAT, etc.)
BAHS – Mrs. Kervin (senior activities and due dates).

Graduation Audits:

Seniors are encouraged to stop into the BAHS Counseling Office early in the new school year if they have any questions or concerns about classes/credits needed in their final year of high school.

PROJECT PLAYGROUND

Efforts continue to increase and improve the playground equipment available at both the Elementary and Middle School. At the Elementary, a spiral slide has been ordered and the “rockers” have been repainted and are ready to be installed. The “Monarch Climber” has been ordered for the Middle School. This is a combination of a rock and rope climbing structure. A volleyball net has also been installed. If you would like to be a part of or support this group, please contact either the Middle School or Elementary School Office.

WE COLLECT THE FOLLOWING

The following items may be turned in to the Elementary or Middle School Offices: Campbell’s Soup UPC’s, Box Tops for Education, and used ink & laser cartridges. These items are redeemed and the proceeds go toward additional materials and programs for the building.

DISTRICT WEBSITE

Checking our website will provide an excellent source of information. Part of the website includes each building having their own page to share pertinent information including current and upcoming activities, lunch menu, staff and classroom information, Daily Bulletin, schedules, and the Student Handbook. This information can be found by going to www.badaxeps.org.



SKYWARD

Skyward is a valuable district information system to help monitor your student's progress. Parents and students are able to access grades, attendance, messages, and class information. If you need assistance to access your account, please contact your student's school office.

For those on the go, you can download the Skyward mobile app through the Google Play Store or iTunes Store and monitor on any apple or android device.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Numerous activities are available for Middle School students to participate in. These opportunities occur both during the school day and after. Consider participating in some these teams, groups, or clubs, to help make your school experience even better. Some possibilities include:

Student Council

Science Olympiad

Quiz Bowl

Destination Imagination

Girls' Club

Academic Support

Football

Basketball

Volleyball

Cross Country

Track

Wrestling

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Academic Support is available for all High School and Middle School students on Tuesday & Thursday from 3:25-4:25. Whether it is needed for makeup assignments or tests, more one-on-one assistance, a quiet place to complete assignments, or if struggling with a class, this is an excellent opportunity for students to receive additional help.

BREAK FOR BREAKFAST

A proper breakfast is essential for a student to be productive. All students may eat breakfast before starting their school day. Again this year students in grades K-5 have the opportunity to have breakfast in the classroom at the start of the day. In addition, all 6-12 grade students have the additional opportunity to eat breakfast between 1st and 2nd hour for "2nd Chance Breakfast".

FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Family Enrichment will be held this Fall at the Bad Axe Middle School. Mrs. Foy and Mrs. Errer will be leading the Love N Logic parenting classes. Flyers with registration dates and times will be distributed after school starts. Contact Mrs. Foy at 989-269-2735 ext. 5002 or by email at kfoy@badaxeps.org if you have additional questions regarding the upcoming Family Enrichment parenting classes.

K-5 SPECIALS CLASSES

The offerings for our K-5 students continues this year to be one of the more diverse opportunities you can find. Students in K-3 will have daily physical education in addition to computers and art throughout the week. Grades 4-5 will also have daily physical education classes in addition to computers, art, and music.

2016-2017 KEY FALL & OTHER DATES

August 31	Open House K-12 (6:00-7:30pm)
September 6	First Day of School
October 28	End of First Marking Period
November 10	Parent-Teacher Conferences/ Early Dismissal
November 11	Early Dismissal
November 15	No School-Professional Development
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 3	Classes Resume
April 3-7	Spring Break
June 3	Ascent High School Graduation
June 4	Bad Axe High School Graduation
June 13	Last Day of School

For the complete 2016-2017 school calendar, check out our webpage www.badaxeps.org.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFO:

Elementary School	269-2736
Middle School	269-2735
High School	269-9597
Ascent High School	269-2737
Board Office	269-9938

www.badaxeps.org

