

***Inside this special issue...*****President's Message**

by Barbara Blanchard, President

Oh what fun it is to ride in a one horse open...*carriage!*

What an honor to be in the Berkley "Electric Holiday" evening parade! Everything was decorated with lights including the horse drawn carriage. Riding with me were my granddaughter, Leah, and Ellen Barth, President of the Berkley Area PTA Council. Thank you Berkley PTA!

Speaking of honors—The Michigan PTSA scholarship information is now available on our website. Applications are due March 31 and the recipient will be recognized at our state convention, May 3-5. The scholarship was named the Fran Anderson Michigan PTSA Scholarship in honor of a past state president of Michigan PTA (before we became a PTSA) and a dynamic advocate for children. We are delighted to be able to give this tribute to Fran. Funding for the scholarship comes from the sale of appreciation awards but, of course, we also appreciate donations!

I'd also like to remind you about appreciation awards; now is the time to honor those special members of your PTA/PTSA. DSAs (Distinguished Service Awards), Michigan PTSA Honorary Life Memberships and Council Member of the Year awards are available from our state office. Please give the staff 4-6 weeks to process and send these awards to your unit.

A great time to give out these awards are at Founder's Day celebrations. As we celebrate our PTA founders, Alice Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler, please take time to reflect on their mission and how we are still advocating for children and families in many of the same areas of concern such as reducing class size, increased funding for public education, promoting the arts, early childhood education, concern for the health and nutrition of all children, juvenile justice and child labor. We have come a long way in addressing these since 1897! Let's keep advocating for all children.

One way to continue advocating for kids is coming to our Advocacy Day in Lansing on February 15. This is a time to learn about issues you can advocate for children. Topics for the day include, the State Budget, Strategies for Anti-Bullying, High School Reform and many others. Please attend and bring your students. There will be a workshop especially designed for students from our MPTSA Youth team.

Lastly, I'm happy to announce that the Reflections celebration will be April 21 in Walled Lake. Check out the website for details. This event takes the place of the one we usually have at the state convention. Everyone is invited to attend and honor this year's state winners. Some of the winner's will be performing their entry. Come and see how our talented students were inspired by this year's theme, "My Favorite Place."



pictured left to right: Ellen Barth, Berkley PTA Council President, Leah and Barb Blanchard riding in a carriage during the Electric Holiday parade.

**Inside this issue:**

President's Message	1
Capitol Connections Stories from the Field	2
Emerging Minority Leaders Conference	3
Preparing Students for Success	4
Higher Education Key to Better Jobs	5
What Every Parent and Stu- dent Needs to Know	6
News from the Governor's Office	7
Clearly Defining the K-8 Learning Expectations Expected Boost in Pell-Grant	8
College Goal Sunday	9
NPTA Message	10
Michigan Apple Sweepstakes	
Board of Managers Directory	11

**Capitol Connections**

by Kevin McLogan, VP for Legislative Activity

In my last column I talked about how the budget picture is becoming clearer and it is not pretty.



Governor Granholm has proposed a plan that includes spending cuts, revenue enhancements and the restructuring of state taxation, but most importantly for us, **does not cut school funding this year.**

By now I am going to assume that you have made contact with at least one of your legislators. Maybe you sent a letter or an email, maybe a call or you attended Advocacy Day and talked with them face-to-face. Good work, but your job is not yet done. (It's advocacy, for goodness sake, it's never done!)

**We need to get behind the Governor's plan and move Michigan forward.**

The plan sets forth a clear vision that Michigan is a state that values education and declares that all kids will be provided with opportunities for post-secondary education. This plan builds on the work of the past few years with new high school requirements, Merit scholarship changes, and the adoption of the ACT test as our measurement of achievement. The details of this plan may change, but the overall theme must remain intact for our state to be ready to move into the future with well-trained young adults ready to tackle the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Michigan's Budget Situation:**

- Seven years of spending cuts
- FY 2007 General Fund revenues lower than FY1996
- Nearly \$7 billion in one-time resources used
- Weakened connection between revenue structure and economy
- Spending pressures growing faster than revenues

If you have followed the instructions that I have outlined for you in the last few columns, you have built a relationship with your legislator and he or she recognizes you as an important voice in your community. Make sure that you have that conversation. Please join me in supporting this plan.

**Stories from the Field...**

by Cindy Lynde-Perry, Hillside Elementary School PTA President

**Hillside Rocks!**

Students at Hillside Elementary are proudly wearing T-shirts and sweatshirts that proclaim, "Hillside Rocks!" and it's true. A rock climbing wall is being installed in Hillside's gymnasium for use during Physical Education classes. At 20 feet long and 8 feet tall, it is a traverse wall, which means that kids work their way from one end to the other. While their bodies will never be more than a couple of feet off the ground, kids will get all the physical benefits of climbing. Complete with a padded drop zone and locking system, the new climbing wall meets all Michigan school safety standards.



Beginning in the fall of 2005, Hillside's PTA determined that school needs should be evaluated. Previous years of successful fundraising had accumulated in a fund for school improvements. A committee consisting of parents and school staff met numerous times to seek suggestions from the entire school body and evaluated those suggestions.

The rock climbing wall was extensively researched by PTA member Cindy Pinchoff, "It is great to be able to offer our students an exciting way to stretch themselves physically, socially and emotionally. While they're having fun and getting a workout, they might not even realize that they are becoming accomplished/successful team members, risk-takers and problem solvers." At a time when school funding from the state is bottoming out, the PTA was thrilled to be able to provide for our students' needs. Other assets

## Stories from the Field... (con't)

that resulted from this committee's work include permanent outdoor soccer goals, bookshelves, books and other supplies for our new Reading Room, a new life-size skeleton, a recording and playback system to assist in physical education, as well as a planned future lower elementary playground addition.

*This exciting addition to the physical education program is a fine example of the collaboration between Hillside's families and school staff. ~Cindy Perry, PTA President*

"Exposure to this wonderful equipment in our gym will encourage our children to become physically fit while having fun," says Greg Thompson, Physical Education Specialist. Because the design keeps kids close to the ground, it will encourage children to challenge themselves physically and mentally without the risk of falls. "It will help develop upper body and core strength, while improving both dynamic and static balance skills," adds Mr. Thompson. He also mentions that climbing activities promotes cooperation, control and mental focus. Additionally, the traverse wall will foster an enjoyment of climbing as a healthy physical activity.

According to Principal Kathy Smith, "Lifelong physical fitness and health for children is critical. Never before has it been more important to pull together as a community to support the needs of all children." Ms. Smith adds, "The PTA at Hillside continues to examine creative ways to support Hillside children and the priorities we have established together in meeting the needs of the whole child." As physical development and activity positively affects learning, Hillside is thrilled to be the first elementary school in Farmington Public Schools to install a climbing wall and to incorporate it into the physical education curriculum.

Prior to the official opening of the climbing wall a release will be sent home. A signed release will need to be on file for each student before he/she can participate in climbing activities. Hillside's students can look forward to using the rock climbing wall in mid to late February!

## Emerging Minority Leaders Conference

submitted by Rosemerry Allen, Southfield Council PTSA

Our very own Detroit had the honor to play host to PTA's first-ever Emerging Minority Leaders Conference October 27-29, 2006. Designed to recognize and reinforce the significance of ethnic minority leaders' roles in PTA, this conference created an opportunity for these leaders to connect, share, and galvanize efforts.

"Every year we're breaking the mold and stereotype of PTA parents," said Warlene Gary, PTA national CEO and a featured speaker at the event. "We want PTAs nationwide to be representative of our country's population at every level of the organization—local, district and state. This conference is an important step in the right direction."

Rosemerry Allen, Vice President of Southfield Council PTSA, attended the event. She said, "There was so much camaraderie among the attendees. We met folks from all over the globe – Virgin Islands, Germany, Dominican Republic, Russia to name a few – I was in awe." During the three day conference at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center attendees learned effective parent leadership skills in the changing school and community environment. Allen reported that the workshops she attended were "well-planned and engaging."

Among the speakers was keynote Lenora Billings-Harris, a diversity consultant and author. Allen said that Billings-Harris encouraged attendees to go back to their communities and find the hidden assets in their neighborhoods. She also noted that one main theme was creating meaningful connections that develop into long-lasting, productive relationships for everyone.

"This conference is a proactive approach toward strengthening emerging minority leaders by providing tools to assist them in their respective communities," said Anna Weselak, PTA national president.

Something that stuck with Allen during the conference was the parting words of Warlene Gary, "Feed your faith or your motivation will starve to death."

Resources from the conference are available on NPTA's website without a password at [http://www.pta.org/ne\\_conference\\_details\\_1116942648437.html](http://www.pta.org/ne_conference_details_1116942648437.html).



# Graduation Requirements

## Preparing Students for Success

by Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent



Michael Flanagan,  
Superintendent of Public  
Instruction, Michigan Dept.  
of Education

### Success for ALL

In the past, students bound for the workforce needed less-rigorous preparation than those bound for college. However, in today's global economy, a growing body of research shows that the skills needed for success in college and workplace now are the same.

To ensure all students in Michigan are prepared for college, technical training, or the workplace after high school graduation, on April 20, 2006, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law one of the most comprehensive sets of state high school graduation requirements in the nation. It is called the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

### The More You Expect -- The More They Will Learn

Young people tend to achieve what we expect. While our new graduation requirements will set the stage for success, students need to know that these credits are critical to their future. Parents and educators also need to tell them, "We believe in you and we believe you can do it."

Students say they want to be held to a higher standard. According to one recent poll, 88 percent of students said they would work harder if their high school demanded more of them, set higher standards and raised expectations.

### Michigan's New Requirements -- Among Best in Nation

Beginning with students entering 8th grade in 2006, the new Michigan Merit Curriculum will require students to complete 16 specific credits for graduation, plus an online learning course or experience. Students entering 3rd grade in 2006 (Class of 2016) will need two credits in a language other than English while in elementary, middle or high school or have an equivalent learning experience. Previously, the only state requirement was one semester of Civics with district requirements varying widely throughout the state.

### How the Michigan Merit Curriculum Benefits Students, Teachers and Parents

The Michigan Merit Curriculum will:

- Increase students' opportunity to get scholarships, go to college or technical school.
- Reduce costly remedial college courses.
- Get better jobs, pay and promotions. Studies show students taking these courses could increase their lifetime earning potential by over \$1 million dollars.
- Allow students to earn high school credits before entering high school.
- Continue to allow students to take electives.
- Earn credit through Career and Technical Education programs, Advance Placement courses, by testing-out, enrolling in college classes not offered by their high school and more.
- Provide educators with a common understanding of what students should know and be able to do for credit.
- Allow school districts to continue to set additional graduation requirements, make all staffing and scheduling decisions, award diplomas, etc.

<b>Michigan High School Graduation Requirements</b> beginning with students entering 8th grade in 2006
<b>4 Credits - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b>
English Language Arts 9, English Language Arts 10, English Language Arts 11, English Language Arts 12
<b>4 Credits - MATHEMATICS</b>
Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II, one math or math-related course in final year of high school
<b>3 Credits - SCIENCE</b>
Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and one additional science credit
<b>3 Credits - SOCIAL STUDIES</b>
World History & Geography, U.S. History & Geography, .5 credits in both Civics and Economics
<b>1 Credit - PHYSICAL EDUCATION &amp; HEALTH</b>
<b>1 Credit - VISUAL, PERFORMING and APPLIED ARTS</b>
<b>ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE</b>
<b>2 Credits - LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH</b>
In grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 (beginning with students entering 3rd grade in 2006.)

## Continued....

### What can parents do to help students succeed with this new curriculum?

- Expect your child to achieve and succeed. The more you expect, the more they will learn.
- Take time to watch a short video with your teen that was made by students for students on the new requirements available on the Department's web page at [www.michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.michigan.gov/highschool).
- Beginning in seventh grade, students should work with their school to develop a career and high school planning document called an Educational Development Plan (EDP). The EDP will help guide their scheduling choices and explore various career pathways.
- Get involved and stay involved. When parents are actively involved, kids do better in school. Be a partner with each teacher. Teachers need your cooperation to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year.
- At the first sign of trouble, work with teachers to identify ways to help your child be successful.
- Make sure your student has a quiet place to study place and a study routine.
- Most importantly, be supportive.

**32%** of U.S. students who enter 9th grade graduate prepared for college

**24%** of recent graduates said they were significantly challenged in high school

**22%** of ACT-tested students met or exceeded all three ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.

Now you know

For more information, visit the Michigan Department of Education's high school web page at [www.michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.michigan.gov/highschool).

## Flat World Facts

### Higher Education Key to Better Jobs



The real-world demands of work and post-secondary education are high and, according to research conducted for the Michigan Merit Curriculum, the majority of our graduating students aren't prepared to meet those demands.

Current graduation requirements reflect an economy and society that doesn't exist anymore. Gone are the days of graduating high school and landing a secure, well-paying job with the Big 3. Recent studies show that the skills and knowledge required in the workforce today aren't very different from those needed for success in college. Interestingly, business execs have said that the exodus of U.S. jobs abroad was not to utilize cheap labor, but to

tap into a reserve of highly educated, conscientious workforces that were not available in the United States. In fact, national data indicates that academic achievement in high school reading, math and science has been stagnant for decades.

With little modification in student achievement, it's no surprise to hear recent high school graduates quoted as saying, "expectations were low (in high school) and...it was easy to slide by." In a 2005 survey of 1,500 students, just 24% said they were significantly challenged in high school, which might explain why remedial courses for college freshman are becoming more and more prevalent. The disheartening truth is that students who require remediation are less likely to be successful in college or obtain a degree—and right now nearly 30% of college freshman are immediately placed into remedial courses.

The fact is, good jobs demand more education. The bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the top 50 fastest-growing jobs will require education beyond high school and 40% of all new jobs will require at least an associate's degree. A wide range of economic, education and business experts say jobs today require more math and English than ever before and some postsecondary education or training is necessary to meet the needs of a high-performance workplace. Log on to [www.achieve.org](http://www.achieve.org) for more facts about college-bound students and the need for higher education.

# Michigan Merit Exam

## What EVERY Parent and Student Needs to Know

by Donna Oser, Executive Director

**Note to Parents:** *The Michigan Merit Exam can be a very important tool to use in helping your children transition into successful futures. Knowledge is power so take a few minutes now to learn about this test regardless of whether your child is 15 or 5.*

On March 13, eleventh grade students in Michigan will begin taking the Michigan Merit Examination (MME), which replaced the MEAP at the high school level. The MME is based on the ACT college entrance exam, WorkKeys (the ACT work skills assessment), plus several Michigan components developed to assess Michigan specific curriculum. The state of Michigan pays for this testing. MME scores will be used for school accountability purposes, and most students will also receive ACT and WorkKeys scores that they can use to apply to college, to qualify for work training, or to obtain a job. The goal is to help students as they transition to further schooling or work after graduating from high school.

### How & When

The ACT plus writing will be administered on March 13 statewide, followed the next day by the administration of the WorkKeys and Michigan mathematics assessments. Then, school districts will administer the Michigan science and social studies assessments on March 14, 15, or 16. Make-up testing will be scheduled exactly two weeks later.

### Retakes...This is Important!

Students who wish to re-test may do so in October or again in the spring of their senior year. One re-test will be paid for by the state. This is important to note because students may wish to retake for the purpose of improving their score for college applications and/or for scholarship eligibility including the early allotment funds for the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

### Accommodations

A number of assessment accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities and English language learners, (see list of MME Assessment Accommodations on the MME web site). Students can anticipate that most of the accommodations will result in college-reportable scores. IEP teams will need to identify the accommodations needed for both MEAP assessments and MME assessments separately. Based on the IEP, each student requiring an accommodation will need to apply to ACT for approval prior to the MME assessment. The MI-Access assessments will still be an option for students unable to participate in MME or MEAP.

### Preparing Your Student

Of course over the long term the best ways to prepare for both the MEAP and the MME is to make sure your school curriculum covers the state defined content and encourage your students to take rigorous courses and study hard. In the shorter term prior to taking tests students should get plenty of rest, have a healthy breakfast and bring healthy snacks, and wear comfortable clothing. Test preparation courses can have benefit for some students and a few are available at no cost from Michigan Virtual University.

For more information, log on to [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709\\_35150---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_35150---,00.html)



Donna Oser,  
Executive Director  
Michigan PTSA

## Flat World Facts

In his best-selling book, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, Thomas L. Friedman analyzes the progress of globalization with an emphasis on the early 21st century.

**Sound boring?!** It's not! Friedman illustrates how technology has flattened our world with real life examples that boggle the mind and may just leave parents pondering what type of a career the future has in store for their child! In Flat World Facts, we'll feature tidbits about our global economy that put into perspective the recent changes to Michigan's K-12 education system.

## Flat World Facts

According to Michigan Future, Inc., a non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to being a source of new ideas on how Michigan's people, enterprises and communities can succeed in the Information Age, "In a flat world, successful careers are going to be much more ad hoc and nonlinear—requiring agility and resourcefulness. We still describe career progression as climbing a ladder, the notion being that there are known, linear steps that one takes to get increasingly better-paid work. This is increasingly the wrong story. "

**Forget the Career ladder—Think Rock Climbers!** It continues, "Rather than ladder climbing, the way to get ahead in the future is going to look a lot more like rock climbing. Rock climbing because successful careers are going to require the ability to constantly spot opportunities and challenges and the ability to figure out how to make those opportunities and challenges work to your advantage. For most of us, there will no longer be a straight line up to a promotion. Rather, we will have to be able to move sideways, sometimes down, in order to advance. "

As parents, we want to be raising rock climbers, who have the agility and resourcefulness needed to succeed in a flat world.

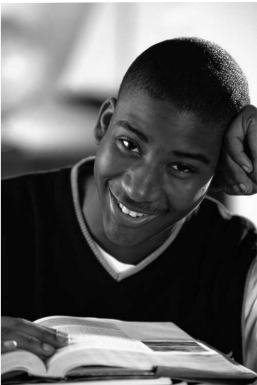
## Michigan Promise Scholarship

### News from the Governor's Office

On December 21, 2006, Governor Granholm signed into law the Michigan Promise scholarship. This scholarship provides up to \$4,000 to high school graduates for successfully completing two years of post-secondary education beginning with the high school graduating class of 2007.

The Michigan Promise is available to every student who wants to earn a college degree or technical certification, which is different from the Michigan Merit Award, a scholarship established in 1999 and awarded to approximately only half the students who graduate high school. The Michigan Merit Award was based on standardized test scores whereas this new scholarship opportunity offers an approach that provides encouragement and financial support to the majority of Michigan students, including those who did not qualify for the Michigan Merit Award.

*This certificate is a ticket to a college education...when you get it, talk about it, frame it...put it on the refrigerator...make college your expectation and your child's goal.*  
~Governor Granholm



The Governor discussed this new scholarship in her State of the State Address on February 6. She reminded citizens that the scholarship is being funded through tobacco settlement money and not funded with tax dollars. In the spring, promissory certificates will be distributed to parents across Michigan.

Students from the Class of 2007 who have taken the MEAP test and received qualifying scores for the Michigan Merit Award already qualify for the Michigan Promise scholarship; and those who have taken the MEAP test but have not received qualifying scores for the Michigan Merit Award can retake the MEAP test in Spring 2007 for another opportunity. For the Class of 2008 and beyond, students must take the Michigan Merit Exam to qualify for the Michigan Promise scholarship.

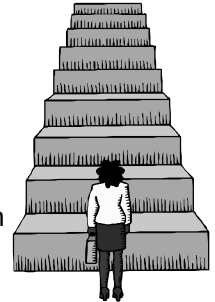
For more information, contact the Office of Scholarships and Grants at 1-888-4-GRANTS or email [osg@michigan.gov](mailto:osg@michigan.gov).

## Grade level Content Expectations

### Clearly Defining the K-8 Learning Expectations

In 2004 the Michigan Department of Education took on the challenge of creating Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) in response to the No Child Left Behind act. Then, in June of that same year, Michigan released its first version of these expectations, 6.04. Today, thanks to the commitment of the Office of School Improvement, v.12.05 of the GLCE has been introduced.

The good news is, these updated documents are available for you at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)! The documents can be found at the direct link, [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753\\_33232---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_33232---,00.html) where you will find a list of PDFs for your viewing. These K-8 GLCE documents are for both educators who need access to multiple grade levels and parents looking for guides to help explain expectations. The goal of the documents is to state in clear terms what students in each grade are expected to know and be able to do.



This latest version of the GLCE offers a refined and clarified document of the original expectations. The nationally-recognized GLCE represent many months of dedicated contribution by classroom teachers, curriculum experts, academicians and Michigan Department of Education staff and consultants. The expectations were developed for two content areas, English Language Arts and Mathematics, spanning grades K-8. Pre-K GLCEs are expected soon!

## Access to College

### Expected Boost in Pell Grant for Low-Income Families

The 2008 budget is set to include the biggest increase in Pell Grants for low-income students in three decades. It was reported that the Bush administration has proposed an increase of \$550, boosting the maximum award to \$4,600, which would exceed the \$260 increase passed by the House on January 31. Democrats have also introduced a proposal into Senate that calls for an immediate increase to \$5,100, which is currently before committee.

The grants, which students don't have to pay back, are the federal government's main direct financial aid program for low-income families. It seems as though the first increase in maximum Pell awards won't be seen for about five years. Education advocates warned that they're unsure how the increase would be funded, and caution it could come at the expense of other financial aid programs.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings said the Pell increase would be paid for with increased revenues and "efficiencies" that were not specified, but she noted that details would be released with the president's budget announcement.

The affordability of college is a concern for many families, and with aid like the Pell Grant higher education becomes more accessible and manageable for college-bound students.

## Flat World Facts

Can you imagine a day when you're in the drive-through lane of a fast food restaurant but the person taking your order is hundreds or thousands of miles away?! It's already happening! Shannon Davis, who owns quite a few McDonald franchises in Missouri, has them hooked up to a call center in Colorado! Why? Lower costs, greater speed and efficiency and fewer mistakes!

**Flat fast food?!** Relatively simple technology allows the restaurants to be connected to a call center via video and audio. Why should you care? If french fries can be outsourced, imagine what else can! Our children are going to need to be well prepared academically in order to obtain the type of employment that will provide a good quality of life.

## Flat World facts

When talking about the global economy, people tend to talk a lot about China as a threat. That is true in the sense that China has such a huge population of workers willing to work at a low wage that they have/will inevitably take some of the less skilled American jobs. That threat is exacerbated by the fact that as China becomes more competitive it becomes the role model for other developing countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Ireland and Brazil. However, China is also a customer. If America can raise entrepreneurial children who grow up to invent products that appeal to China's 1.3 billion citizens/consumers, that's one heck of a market!

**The lion and the Gazelle!** The following proverb, which was posted on the floor of a Chinese factory in Mandarin, says it best:

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are the lion or the gazelle. When the sun comes up, you'd better start running.

## Access to College

### College Goal Sunday

**How does thousands of dollars toward a college education sound? Make the date...Max the cash!**

To get the most money to help pay for a college career, up-in-coming college students need to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1. To help out, Partnership for Learning is coordinating College Goal Sunday, February 11, between 2-4 p.m. There you will have an expert on hand to assist you as you fill out the FAFSA — free! — at one of 27 locations in Michigan.

Not sure about college? Apply for the money now and decide later. If you wait, chances are you'll get less.

**Here's what you need to bring:**

- Social Security numbers
- Driver's licenses or alien registration cards
- 2005 federal tax returns, if 2006 returns aren't complete
- 2006 untaxed income records

Locations will be spread across the state in Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marquette, Saginaw, and many more. Go to [www.partnershipforlearning.org](http://www.partnershipforlearning.org) for all the details.



**FREE**

### ACT PREP COURSES!

Michigan Virtual University offers an online test preparation tool for the ACT, and portions of the Michigan Merit Exam at **NO COST** to Michigan schools.

For more info call the MVU Help Desk at 888.889.2840 Monday-Friday 7 a.m.– midnight, Sunday 5-9 p.m or email [mivuhelp@mivu.org](mailto:mivuhelp@mivu.org).

## National PTA Message

by Anna Weselak, President



Anna M. Weselak,  
National PTA President

### Teacher Appreciation Week—Renewing a Partnership

Teachers are very special people, and PTA has long promoted the partnership of parents and teachers. One of PTA's premier events of the year is Teacher Appreciation Week, when we celebrate the contributions of these dedicated women and men.

PTAs across the country recognize Teacher Appreciation Week this year from May 6–12, making it the perfect time to emphasize the importance of parent-teacher partnerships. Plan events to show appreciation for the contributions teachers and school staff make to children's lives.

Try a few new ideas this year. Ask students to draw pictures or write thank-you notes to their teachers and add in thank-you notes from parents, too. Consider putting flowers in the teachers' lounge. Stock the staff lounge with gourmet coffee and teas, or plan a special teachers-only breakfast served by parents and students. For more ideas, go to PTA's Great Idea Bank at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

Teacher Appreciation Week is a wonderful time to honor teachers and renew the partnership between parents and teachers that helps students achieve success.

## Michigan Apple Sweepstakes

Is your school participating in the Michigan Apple School Sweepstakes? If not, you are missing the opportunity to win up to \$3,000 in cash prizes.

There is still plenty of time to participate in the new program, which was launched this fall by the Michigan Apple Committee. The purpose of the Sweepstakes is to help students eat more healthy apples, raise awareness that most Michigan apples are sold in bags and learn more about the Michigan apple industry.

Participation is relatively simple. Students and their families collect proofs of purchase from Michigan apple bags they buy at the grocery store and send them to school. The schools collect them and send them in for a chance to win!

Anyone who wants to take charge for your school can find all the necessary information, including official contest rules, a participation guide and bulletin board flyers at [www.MichiganApples.com/schoolsandkids](http://www.MichiganApples.com/schoolsandkids).

The Michigan Apple School Sweepstakes continues through April 13. Don't miss this opportunity to earn cash prizes that can be used to purchase anything your school needs, including playground equipment, library books and computers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to: [staff@MichiganApples.com](mailto:staff@MichiganApples.com).

Michigan Apples School Sweepstakes

**Eat right and earn  
money for your school!**



**MICHIGAN  
APPLES**

Proof of Purchase

Simply collect proofs of purchase from Michigan apple bags and send them in for a chance to win up to \$3,000.

Official contest rules and entry forms available at:

[www.MichiganApples.com/schoolsandkids](http://www.MichiganApples.com/schoolsandkids)

The Michigan Apple Committee looks forward to your school's participation in this program that will reward \$12,000 to six K-12 Michigan schools while promoting healthy eating habits, starting with Michigan apples.

## MPTSA Board of Managers 2005-2007

### President

Barbara Blanchard  
1927 Edgewood  
Berkley, MI 48072  
2485428159  
barbjblan@aol.com

### President Elect

Debbie Squires  
2132 Jason Dr  
Commerce Twp, MI 48382  
2487702752  
presidentelect@michigan  
pta.org

### Treasurer

Brian Whiston  
152 Garland Way  
Waterford, MI 48327  
2486819584  
brian.whiston@Oakland.k12.mi.us

### Secretary

Libby Benton  
522 Gardenia Ave.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
2485413934  
libbyb9@wideopenwest.com

### Membership Chair

Linda Bodnovits  
962 West Rose  
Garden City, MI 48135  
7344255653  
bodnovl@gcity.k12.mi.us

### Bylaws Chair

Violet Streeter  
32360 Brown Street  
Garden City, MI 48135  
7344271166 (H)  
7347167022 (C)  
streetv@gcity.k12.mi.us

### VP for Legislative Activity

Kevin McLogan  
503 Poplar Ave.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
2483071037  
kmclogan@wowway.com

### VP for Programs

Rolf Weeks  
2126 Lakeshire Dr  
W. Bloomfield, MI 48323  
2488517914  
mmichigan1ptsa@yahoo.com

### VP of Organization

Bela Antal III  
8613 Liberty Blvd  
Westland, MI 48185  
7343674122  
belaiiii@sbcglobal.net

### VP for Leadership

Doris Hetzel  
15752 Aster  
Allen Park, MI 48101  
3137438223  
hetzeldo@yahoo.com

### Region A

Serves Alger, Baraga,  
Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson,  
Gogebic, Houghton, Iron,  
Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac,  
Marquette, Menominee,  
Ontonagan & Schoolcraft  
counties.

### Region B

Serves Alcona, Alpena, Antrim,  
Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan,  
Crawford, Emmet, Grand  
Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska,  
Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee,  
Montmorency, Ogemaw,  
Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle,  
Roscommon & Wexford  
counties.

### Regions A & B Vice President

VACANT

### Regions A & B Field Service

VACANT

### REGION C

Serves Ionia, Kent, Lake,  
Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo,  
Oceana & Ottawa counties.

### Region C Vice President

Vickie Craig  
1111 Chippewa Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
6162476536  
vcraig@iserv.net

### Region C Field Service

VACANT

### REGION D

Serves Genesee, Huron,  
Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland,  
Sanilac, St. Clair & Tuscola  
counties.

### Region D Vice President

Keith Warnick  
800 La Prairie  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
2485479117  
KRW53@aol.com

### Region D Field Service

Peggy Brack  
3234 Old Farm Road  
Flint, MI 48507  
8107324477  
pfreybrack@aol.com

Mary DeYoung-Smith  
217 Royal Avenue  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
2485850803  
kevmarsmit@aol.com

Dianna Moses  
325 Wellsboro  
Walled Lake, MI 48390  
2486243987  
designsbydianna@wmconnect.c  
om

### Region E

Serves Allegan, Barry, Berrien,  
Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton,  
Kalamazoo, Van Buren & St.  
Joseph counties.

### Region E Vice President

VACANT

### Region E Field Service

Ruthann Jaquette  
508 Pleasant St  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
5176279406  
jaquettefamily@comcast.net

### Region F

Serves Monroe and Wayne  
counties.

### Region F Vice President

Connie Lyon  
3604 Parker St  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
3135655932  
clyon02@aol.com

### Region F Field Service

Kathy Carter  
4177 Irene  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146  
3133819344  
kcarter53@wowway.com

Rosie Jeffrey  
8600 Lewis Ave  
Temperance, MI 48182  
4193432701  
stamps4me@juno.com

Kristi Rohrer  
3138 Dean Rd  
Lambertville, MI 48144  
7348548128  
krohrrer@verizon.net

Shaton Berry  
3834 Lovett  
Detroit, MI 48210  
3132189801  
slb2u2@comcast.net

Letitia Kemp-Jarrett  
8058 Ohio Street  
Detroit, MI 48204  
3138345974  
dee@calldeedee.com

### Region G

Serves Arenac, Clare, Gladwin,  
Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta,  
Midland, Montcalm, Osceola &  
Saginaw counties.

### Region G Vice President

VACANT

### Region G Field Service

VACANT

### Region H

Serves Clinton, Hillsdale,  
Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee,  
Livingston, Shiawassee &  
Washtenaw counties.

### Region H Vice President

Kelly Clock  
PO BOX 442  
Byron, MI 48418  
8108134216  
kelclock@hotmail.com

### Region H Field Service

VACANT

### Youth Advisor

Yetta Hrushka  
34670 Pinehurst Dr  
Livonia, MI 48154  
7345258190  
yhrushka@twmi.rr.com

### Youth Consultant

Melodie Provencher  
9032 Laurel  
Livonia, MI 48150  
7344228397  
mpatow@sbcglobal.net

### Student Representative

Laura Karasinski  
19488 Bainbridge  
Livonia, MI 48152  
7347487095  
Karasin1@msu.edu

### Youth Conference Members

Lindsay Haycock  
38910 Allen  
Livonia, MI 48154  
7344320739  
musikalshorti@yahoo.com

Lisa Klager  
3624 Old Pine Way  
W. Bloomfield, MI 48324  
2483663249  
idahovbchick17@yahoo.com

Beth Sarlauskas  
9032 Laurel St  
Livonia, MI 48150  
7344228397  
musikqueen@sbcglobal.net

### Immediate Past President

Pattie Bayless  
1022 Pine St  
Port Huron, MI 48060  
8104551427  
plbayless@yahoo.com

### Parent Involvement Chair

Sue Bellows  
31205 Barton  
Garden City, MI 48135  
7344218807  
mumbellows@wowway.com

### Programs Health & Welfare Rep

Margaret Blount  
906 N Alexander  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
2485481737  
mcbblount@sbcglobal.net

### Reflections Chair

Deanna Nazaroff  
28400 Meadowbrook  
Novi, MI 48377  
2483488514  
djnazaroff@gmail.com

### Awards Chair

David Squires  
2132 Jason Dr  
Commerce Twp, MI 48382  
2489216783  
davidssquires@gmail.com

### Webmaster

Steve Hyer  
6825 Dixie Hwy  
Clarkston, MI 48346  
2489220170  
sjh@igdsolutions.com

### Extension Chair

Maryjane Cipic  
198 Apperson Rd  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
2699651066  
mjcipic@sbcglobal.net

## Dates to Remember

### February

- February 15th—Advocacy Day
- February 17th—Founders Day
- February 28th—Membership Awards Eligibility Form Due
- February 28th—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- February 28th—Membership Roster Due
- February 11th-17th—PTA Take Your Family to School Week
- Month of February—Black History Month

### March

- March 2nd—NEA's Read Across America ([www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross))
- March 11th—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 28th—Membership Roster Due
- March 28th—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- March 28th—Membership Roster Due
- March 31st—Fran Anderson MPTSA Scholarship Application Due
- Month of March —Parenting Awareness Month

### April

- April 12th—Drop Everything and Read Day
- April 21st—Reflections Celebration
- April 26th—Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- April 16-20th—School Building Week
- April 28th—Treasurer's Remittance Form Due
- April 28th—Membership Roster Due
- Month of April—Mathematics Education Month, Keep America Beautiful Month & Child Abuse Prevention Month



## Fran Anderson Michigan PTSA Scholarship

Get \$1,000 toward your college education!

Download the application at  
[www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org)  
Deadline March 31

### Michigan PTSA Bulletin

Official Bulletin of the Michigan Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students\*

\*PTA and PTSA are registered service marks of the National PTA, registration number 808987, issued May 24, 1966.

Donna Oser, Executive Director  
[donnar@michiganpta.org](mailto:donnar@michiganpta.org)

7402 Westshire Suite 115  
Lansing, MI 48917  
P (517) 622-4782  
F (517) 622-4788

# Michigan PTSA®

7402 WESTSHIRE DRIVE  
SUITE 115  
LANSING, MI 48917-8687

*every child. one voice.*

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 76  
LANSING, MI

We're on the web!  
[www.michiganptsa.org](http://www.michiganptsa.org)