

## IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A BRONSON VIKING!

The 2023-2024 school year is in full swing! Our students are already involved in experiences in the arts and athletics. We are all off to a wonderful start!

Prepping for the school year began last spring when discussions surrounding professional development opportunities and course schedules took place. From that point forward, we were working on wrapping up the 22-23 school year and looking ahead to this current year. Before the first day of school, staff were involved in four days of professional learning related to topics/training to improve the student learning experience. These topics included:



- **New Teacher Orientation** - this year, we welcomed 15 new certified staff members during our first annual new teacher orientation. Teachers participated in training and a district-wide bus tour to become better acclimated and familiar with the Bronson community.
- **IXL** - an online supplemental learning program that assigns activities for students that align with instruction and the student's needs.
- **New Curricular Materials Training** - Our K-5 teachers are using a program called Open Court for language arts instruction, while our 6th grade teachers are using a program called Amplify ELA. Both of these programs are new to our district, and it was important to ensure teachers received training to use the materials effectively.
- **De-Escalation Training** - all staff, K-12, participated in this training as a starting point to building staff empathy and skillset as we work with and support every student every day.
- **Building-Wide Discussions** - each building had time with their teams to discuss school improvement topics, instructional strategies, and initiatives they will focus on this year.

As you can see, we were very busy the week before students arrived to prepare for their return!

The Polish Festival Committee selected our bus drivers to serve as the Grand Marshal for the parade! What a great way to honor our drivers for their amazing work to ensure that our students arrive safely day in and day out. A special thank you goes out to these individuals: Doug Currier, Dawn Clover, Charity Hoard, Linda Hyska, Sally Lindsey, Brandy Rinehart, April Smith, and Laurie Wonders.

Last year, our district received a generous donation from the Diana K. Milliman Living Trust. As a district, it is our job to determine the best use of these funds. We thank those who provided input and will report the survey results soon. We will also keep you posted on the final determination of how we will use the funds.

This summer, we also worked on a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) project at Bronson Jr/Sr High School. A combination of general fund dollars and COVID Relief funds given to Bronson to address needs we have experienced since the onset of the pandemic - specifically air quality and ventilation funded this project. Ductwork within the building is ready for air conditioning, (continued p2)

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## NUMBERS TO KNOW

Anderson Elementary  
517.369.3234

Ryan Elementary  
517.369.3254

Bronson Jr/Sr High  
517.369.3230

Administration  
517.369.3260

## FOLLOW ALONG!

You can find all of our buildings on Facebook, and Bronson Community Schools on both Facebook and Instagram





and condenser units are also installed on the roof. We plan to have cooled air moving at the Jr/Sr High School next fall!

It truly takes all of us working together to improve our district and make it the best place for our students. We value our partnerships with families, schools, and the community to make our district what it is and look forward to continuing to grow that partnership in the years to come.

Kate Wall  
Superintendent  
#GDTBABV

# SINKING FUND PROGRESS

When the citizens of Bronson first passed a five-year Sinking Fund millage in 2014, Bronson Community Schools committed to update the community progress of the improvements made with the funds. By law, the funds must be maintained separately from all other school funds, must have an annual budget and an independent audit. The sinking fund millage may only be used for purposes identified in the proposal, approved by voters, and *it may not be used for any purpose other than those authorized by law*. A new sinking fund millage was approved by voters in late 2018, and a renewal proposal of this millage is on the ballot for November 7, 2023. More information on the renewal can be found on the back page.

Completed Projects	Completed Projects (continued)	Upcoming or Projects In Progress
Anderson Elementary Boilers	Bronson Jr/Sr HS Doors & Frames	Ryan Elementary Plumbing Repairs
Ryan Elementary Fire Alarm System	Ryan Elementary Doors & Frames	Bronson Jr/Sr HS Floor Repairs (2 rooms)
Bronson Jr/Sr HS Gym Lighting	Anderson Elementary Roof	
Ryan Elementary Gym Lighting	Anderson Elementary Soffit/Fascia	
Bronson Jr/Sr HS Roof	Ryan Elementary Roof	
Ryan Elementary ADA Compliance	Chicago St Administration Roof	
Anderson Elementary ADA Compliance	Anderson Elementary Windows	
911 Compliant Phone System	Bronson Jr/Sr HS 6th Grade Egress	
Bronson Jr/Sr HS ADA Compliance	Bronson Jr/Sr HS Boilers	
Anderson Elementary Gym Lighting	Ryan Elementary Plumbing Fixtures	
Anderson Elementary Plumbing Fixtures	Ryan Elementary Soffits	
Bronson Jr/Sr HS Occupancy Sensors	Bronson Jr/Sr HS Boilers	
Bronson Jr/Sr HS Bathrooms	Bronson Jr/Sr HS Office Vestibule	



**Lisa Alger**  
Paraprofessional  
Anderson Elementary



**Lindsey Batten**  
Administrative Assistant  
Jr/Sr High School



**Shannon Campbell**  
Paraprofessional  
Ryan Elementary



**Leslie Coleman**  
5th Grade Teacher  
Ryan Elementary



**Kris Crabill**  
Principal  
Jr/Sr High School



**Becky Cranson**  
5th Grade Teacher  
Ryan Elementary



**Silvia Dietz**  
Paraprofessional  
Ryan Elementary



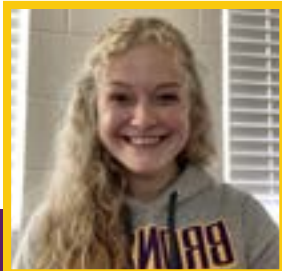
**Rachel Dobb-Wahl**  
English Teacher  
Jr/Sr High School



**Erin Enright**  
Music Teacher  
Anderson and Ryan



**Chase Gibson**  
Health-Biology Teacher  
Jr/Sr High School



**Sarah Howk**  
Social Worker



**Paige Judson**  
Physical Education Teacher  
Anderson and Ryan



**Kristen Lehman**  
Paraprofessional  
Ryan Elementary



**Ashley Mack**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Anderson Elementary



**Rebecca Maust**  
Student Support  
Services Coordinator  
Ryan Elementary



**Zane McDonald**  
6th Grade Teacher  
Jr/Sr High School



**Julie Olson**  
Science Teacher  
Jr/Sr High School



**Leigh Parker**  
Interim Principal  
Ryan Elementary



**Karlyn Pritchard**  
Paraprofessional  
Jr/Sr High School



**Destiny Skirka**  
4th Grade Teacher  
Ryan Elementary

# WELCOME NEW STAFF!



**Evan Smith**  
Social Studies Teacher  
Jr/Sr High School



**Melissa Swick**  
Paraprofessional  
Anderson Elementary

# SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL

## General Information

### When is the vote taking place?

Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Absentee ballots are currently available for those wanting to vote using this method.

### Who is eligible to vote?

All registered voters living within the Bronson Community School District boundaries are able to vote on this millage proposal.

### What is being voted on?

Vote on the renewal of a Sinking Fund Millage for building and site renovations, safety and security improvements and technology updates.

### Where do I vote?

Voting will take place at your normal polling place that you go to for all elections. You can contact your county clerk's office or visit [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote) for more information.

## Ballot Language

### What will the ballot language look like?

#### BRONSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the building and site sinking fund millage that expires with the 2023 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate of 1.9766 mills (\$1.9766 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all property in Bronson Community School District, Branch and St. Joseph Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 5 years, 2024 to 2028, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings; for school security improvements; for the acquisition or upgrading of technology; and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2024 is approximately \$460,000 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2023 tax levy)?

**In the ballot language, why does the millage rate say 1.9766 mills? Wasn't the 2018 sinking fund a 2.0 mill request? How is this a renewal if it is at a different millage rate?**

The Headlee Property Tax Revenue Limitation requires that if property values increase at a rate higher than the inflation rate, the maximum property tax millage must be reduced so that the sinking fund yields the same gross revenue. A slight decrease to the original 2.0 millage was required due to this requirement known as the 'Headlee Rollback.'

*Paid for by Bronson Community Schools, 501 E. Chicago St., Bronson, MI 49028*

OPEN FOR EDDM INFO