

# Ashley Community Schools

Superintendent – Jeff Rohrer

Principal – Traci Gavenda

September 2016

104 N. New Street  
PO Box 6  
Ashley, MI 48806  
T: 989-847-4000  
F: 989-847-3500  
[www.ashleyschools.net](http://www.ashleyschools.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 31 - Open House

September 06 - Students First Day of School (Full Day)

September 19 - Board of Education Meeting @ 7:00 pm

September 21 – Teacher PD 2-hr delay (students @ 10:00 am)

September 27 - School Pictures

October 07 – Homecoming vs. Coleman @ 7:00 pm. Parade @ 2:00 p.m.

October 13 – Parent-Teacher Conferences (students dismissed @ 11:30 am)

October 26 – Teacher PD 2-hr delay (students @ 10:00 am)

November 04 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period

November 08 – NO SCHOOL – Teacher PD

November 08 – Election Day / Bond Election

November 15 – NO SCHOOL – Deer Hunting Safety Day

November 21 – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:00 pm

November 24 – Thanksgiving – NO SCHOOL

November 25 – Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

Full calendar on website  
[www.ashleyschools.net](http://www.ashleyschools.net)

## FROM THE DESK OF MR. ROHRER...

Welcome Back to School!

Ashley Community School District is preparing for an exciting year. The facilities have been cleaned, new teachers have been hired, the football, volleyball and cross country teams have already started their seasons. Our students participated in a very successful band camp this summer. We are ready to welcome new families as well as our returning students.

As the new Superintendent for the Ashley Schools, I am very pleased with the number of academic and curricular offerings we have available to our students. For the past several years Ashley Community Schools have been recognized for academic success by state and national organizations. Through our athletic and co-curricular offerings, our students develop leadership skills which will help them be successful throughout their careers. Our school setting allows us to customize schedules to meet the needs of all our students.

This summer we hired a new STEM teacher. STEM is incorporating science, technology, engineering and math into project based learning. This new program will offer exciting classes. Also new this fall, Ashley is providing a tuition based preschool program for young children. This in addition to our GSRP preschool program.

Education is the key to a lifetime of success for anyone. No matter what career an individual chooses, he/she will be required to continually update his or her skills and knowledge. Parents, school staff and community members play a key role in providing our youth with the ability to continue learning throughout their lives.

Let's have a great year.



## Calendar Changes for 2016-2017 School Year

There are a few calendar changes for the 2016-2017. In the past, the first day of school for students has been an early release day. This year students will attend all day on September 06, 2016.

Also in the past, teacher professional development days have been early release days. This year we will have a 2-hour delay on teacher professional development days. Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. on these days. Buses will be running two hours later.

Parent-Teacher Conferences and Semester Exam days will remain as early release days (11:30 a.m.).

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## Ashley Community Schools Board of Education

Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Education are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated (\*). These meetings are held in the District Library.

September 19, 2016  
October 17, 2016  
November 21, 2016  
December 19, 2016  
January 16, 2016  
February 13, 2016\*  
March 20, 2016  
April 17, 2016  
May 15, 2016  
June 26, 2016\*

Our current Board of Education consists of the following:

Anmarie Andrews, President  
Thomas Fabus, Vice-President  
Cindy Wilson, Secretary  
Kurt Densmore, Treasurer  
Steve Hardman, Trustee  
James Fabus, Trustee  
Clark Bowman, Trustee

There will be four vacant positions on the Ashley Community Schools Board of Education to be filled on November 08, 2016. All vacancies are four-year terms. If you are interested in running for a School Board Seat please contact the Gratiot County Clerk for information.



## Ashley District Library

The Ashley District Library contains Ashley materials for student enjoyment and to enrich student educational experiences. It also contains books, materials, and computers for community members to enjoy. To become a patron, all you need to do is come into the library and fill out a membership card.

Library hours during the school year are:

Monday: 8-4  
Tuesday: 8-7  
Thursday: 8-7

## SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION



During the school year it may be necessary to close or delay school due to weather conditions.

Announcements will be made as early as possible.

Delays and closings of Ashley Schools will be announced on the following:

Power Announcement  
WNEM-TV 5  
WJRT-TV 12

## Security System

Our new security system is fully functioning. Thanks to the generous grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation we were able to install cameras and security locks on all of our entry doors. Anytime you wish to enter the school you will need to push the button located near the door and wait for the door to be unlocked. Please be patient as this is new to staff as well. Remember, the main entrance is still the entrance at the circle drive.

Address and Phone  
Number Changes



If you have an address or phone number change, please make sure you inform Mrs. Hardman, the School Secretary. This is how we notify parents of emergencies, school closings, and other important school information.

LET'S HAVE A GREAT  
SCHOOL YEAR

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You will see some new faces around the school this year. We are excited to welcome the following staff to the “Ashley Bear” family.

- Mr. Rohrer came aboard in July as our new Superintendent.
- Ms. Hayden replaced Mr. Gavenda and will be teaching 7-12 Math.
- Ms. Ylitalo replaced Mr. Roberson and will be teaching Math, Computers, and STEM.
- Mr. Birchmeier replaced Mrs. Shaw-Weisbarth and will be teaching 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> ELA and Social Studies.

Please take a moment and welcome our new staff to Ashley.

## FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Ashley Food Program will be run again this year by Chartwells. We would like everyone who is eligible for free & reduced priced meals to have the opportunity to fill out an application. This federal program enables students to have a hot meal at an affordable cost.

Applications are available in each office or parents may contact the office if they wish to receive an application by mail.

In addition, ALL students are eligible for free breakfast.

Meal prices this year are:

Elementary	Jr. High/High School
Breakfast: FREE	Breakfast: FREE
Lunch: \$2.05	Lunch: \$2.30
Milk: \$.50	Milk: \$.50
Reduced Lunch: \$.40	Reduced Lunch: \$.40



We would like to say *Congratulations* and *Best Wishes* to our staff that retired at the end of the school year.

Ms. Candy Burk was with Ashley Schools for 35 years.

Mr. Tim Hughes was Superintendent of Ashley Schools for 7 ½ years.

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## Gratiot-Isabella Schools of Choice Program

In an effort to provide a quality education for all students in the region, Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District (GIRESD), in cooperation with its constituent districts, is offering a Schools of Choice program. The Gratiot-Isabella Schools of Choice Program allows parents and students a choice to attend any public school in Gratiot and Isabella counties, regardless of where they live. At the present time, only legal residents of the two counties will be considered in this plan.

## Notice of Non-Discrimination

Ashley Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or physical handicap in the admission to, access to, participation in, benefits of, or employment in its programs or activities as provided by district policy and in compliance with federal and state law.

## Ticket Prices for Athletic Events

Ashley Community Schools will be charging the following prices for athletic events:



Varsity Contests - \$5.00  
Junior Varsity Contests - \$5.00  
Junior High Contest - \$3.00

Season passes are available in the Superintendent's Office or you may purchase at any home sporting event.

Family Pass - \$175  
Single Adult Pass - \$75  
Student Pass (Grades 7-12) - \$35  
Student Pass (K-6) - \$30  
Under 5 Years - Free

## What is the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act?

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act. This legislation ensures that children and youth experiencing homelessness have full and equal access to an appropriate public education and that they experience success in school.

### Who is Considered Homeless?

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines a "homeless children and youth" (school age and younger) as children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, cars, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, camping grounds or similar settings due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Abandoned in hospitals.
- Awaiting foster care placement.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

For more information please contact the Guidance Office at 989-847-40000

## Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)

The Environmental Protection Agency requires each year that district workers and building occupants receive notification of asbestos removal or abatement activities such as inspections and response actions.

This notice serves to inform all parents, teachers, administrators, and all other employees that the three-year re-inspection of all buildings, as required by AHERA, was performed on April 13, 2015. The next three-year re-inspection will be conducted in April 2018.

Each building will continue to have a six-month periodic surveillance and a three-year re-inspection as required by AHERA.

Licensed asbestos abatement contractors have performed all abatement projects and inspections. Any damaged materials containing asbestos, such as floor tile or thermal insulation, found during the inspections has either been corrected or removed by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor.

All materials containing asbestos that remain are in good condition, non-friable, and are located primarily in inaccessible areas.

Updated asbestos management plans are available for review in the Superintendent's office. Any questions regarding asbestos removal projects or other related issues should be addressed to:

Jeff Rohrer, Superintendent  
104 N. New Street, P. O. Box 6  
Ashley, MI 48806

## Notice of Pesticide and Insecticide Use

Pesticides and insecticides are periodically applied to school district property as part of the district's pest and grounds management program. Nuisance pests such as bees and wasps and ants and spiders are our most common problem. Insecticides are primarily used to control or eliminate weeds and grass from playgrounds, parking lots and walks. The following procedures will be followed whenever pesticides or insecticides are used at school:

1. Pesticides/insecticides will be used as a last resort when all other measures to control the problem are exhausted.
2. Pesticides/insecticides will only be applied after all students and staff have left the building or area of the application or during times when school is not in session.
3. Notices will be posted in or near the area(s) being treated for 48 hours after application of any pesticide or insecticide.

Parents and legal guardians of children enrolled in the district have the right to request prior notification of pesticide and insecticide applications to the buildings and grounds. In order to be notified prior to the application of pesticides/insecticides, the parent or legal guardian must submit a request in writing or by phone to the central office:

Jeff Rohrer, Superintendent  
104 N. New Street, P. O. Box 6, Ashley, MI 48806  
989/847-4000

Please understand that emergencies do arise and that pesticides/insecticides may be applied without prior notice to parents or legal guardians. Parents or legal guardians that have requested prior notification, however, will be notified after pesticide application when an emergency arises.

Commercial applications of pesticides/insecticides will be performed only by certified or registered applicators where and when required. If a pesticide is applied in a building, students will not occupy the room for a minimum of four hours. At the time of application, a sign will be posted for 48 hours near the building's primary point of entry. When a pesticide or insecticide is applied to school district grounds, the application will not be made within 100 feet of occupied classrooms, and flags will be inserted in the ground to mark the application area.

This notice was given in compliance with Regulation 637, as amended by Public Act 131 of 1993.

## Student Record Notification to Parents

In compliance with Federal and State regulations, the Ashley Community Schools has established the following guidelines concerning student records:

Each student's records will be kept in a confidential file located at the student's school office. The information in a student's file will be available for review only by the parents or legal guardian of a student, adult student (18 years of age or older), and those authorized by Federal law and District regulations.

A parent, guardian, or adult student has the following rights:

- Inspect and review the student's education records;
- Request amendments if the record is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's rights;
- Consent to disclosures of personally-identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to those disclosures allowed by the law;
- File a complaint with the Department of Education; and
- Obtain a copy of the District's policy and administrative guidelines on student records. (See Board Policy # 8330).
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Only "directory information" regarding a student shall be released to any person or party, other than the student or his/her parent, without written consent of the parent; or, if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, the written consent of the student, except those persons or parties stipulated by District's policy and administrative guidelines and/or those in the law.

The District has established the following information about each student as "directory information": name; address; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; honor roll; height and weight; date of graduation; awards and scholarships received. (Board Policy 8330).

High school students and their parents/guardians may prevent disclosure of a student's name, address and telephone number to military recruiting representatives (who can only use that information to provide information to students concerning educational and career opportunities available in the U.S. Armed Forces or service academies) by submitting a signed written request to that effect to the principal.

The District will make the above information available upon a legitimate request unless a parent, guardian, or adult student notifies the District in writing within thirty (30) days from the date of this notification that she/he will not permit distribution of any or all such information.