



ANCHOR BAY TODAY

SPRING 2025 ~ Promoting educational excellence, community collaboration, and student success

Ashley Elementary

Dean A. Naldrett Elementary

Great Oaks Elementary

Lighthouse Elementary

Lottie M. Schmidt Elementary

Maconce Elementary

Anchor Bay Middle School North

Anchor Bay Middle School South

Anchor Bay High School

MacDonald Early Childhood Center

Early Childhood Center

Aquatic Center



Message From the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of the 2024-25 school year, we are already looking forward to the next school year and the many initiatives the district will be rolling out. What began in 2022 as a series of public meetings is now gaining momentum through the bond, curriculum, and community programs. Beginning next year, you will see many changes focused on transforming the aspirations of the strategic plan into reality.



Phil Jankowski

Back in 2022, the community shared that it wanted to ensure our students would be college-and career-ready. As a result, we were tasked with expanding college credit opportunities, adding career experiences K-12, introducing industry-recognized certifications, creating career pathways, and developing flexible pacing to help all students find their best path in life.

We are excited to roll out a new partnership with St. Clair County Community College, allowing our students to take college classes during the day at no cost in health, business, or general education pathways. Over the next few years, more pathways will be added, and programming will continue to expand. As part of this initiative, we are beginning the transition to a pre-Labor Day start so that our calendar aligns more closely with our college partners.

Likewise, construction on the career pathways portion of the bond at the high school will be winding down, enabling students to take additional career courses that provide hands-on experience in their chosen fields. This will be followed by the development of future career exploration classes at the newly realigned Middle School South building for grades 7-8. These classes will help students explore potential careers, allowing them to select the best options based on their skills and interests.

Additionally, we are raising the bar for students through our new eligibility and cell phone policies. By renewing our focus on academics and career preparation, we will continue to build on our recent successes, which have made Anchor Bay the district with the highest percentage of proficient students on state assessments.

It is an exciting time for Anchor Bay as we implement new spaces, programs, and opportunities for our students. While change may be challenging in the short term, the long-term success of our students will be strengthened by these improvements, empowering them to thrive in the future.

Phil Jankowski, Superintendent

2025 Outstanding Teachers of the Year



Outstanding Teachers of the Year were recognized at the March board meeting. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to our students.

- **Elementary** - Kelly Moore, Naldrett Elementary
- **Middle School** - Ryan Lombardo, Middle School North
- **High School** - Anne Harms, Anchor Bay High

Community Bond Update

Anchor Bay School District recently hosted a Community Bond Forum on March 10, 2025, to provide an update on the district's ongoing bond projects. Approved by the Anchor Bay community in 2022, the \$169 million bond is funding significant improvements across the district. The forum gave attendees a chance to see the major projects nearing completion at the high school and offered a preview of the exciting developments on the horizon.

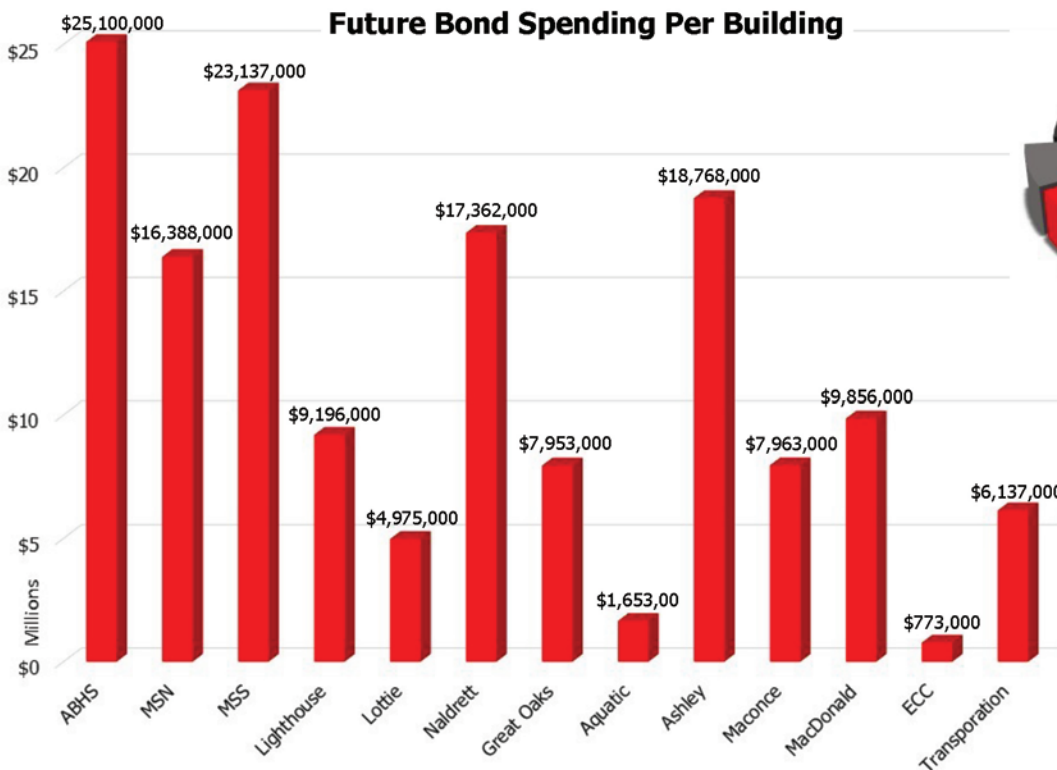
Attendees had the opportunity to tour completed high school projects, including the new mock trial room, graphic arts lab, medical classrooms, and broadcasting studio. They also got a preview of upcoming additions such as the 12,000-square-foot kitchen and restaurant, a four-bay auto shop, and state-of-the-art robotics, welding, and engineering classrooms set to open next school year. Additionally, renovations are underway in the athletic wing and media center, while the counseling office is being transformed into a new Student Success Center.

Bond Budget Update - Just Getting Started

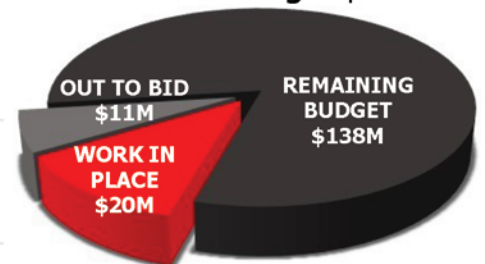
While projects like the Shoreliner Restaurant and Career Pathway hallways at the high school are exciting milestones, the district has only spent \$20 million of the approved \$169 million bond - **we're just getting started!** This bond will fund projects through 2033. Beginning next spring, construction will begin at Naldrett, Great Oaks, and Ashley Elementary, followed by MacDonald and Maconce in 2027. These projects will lead up to a district-wide elementary school redistricting set for Fall 2027.



Career Tech Education (CTE) spaces such as the Shoreliner Restaurant, a four-bay auto shop, and new welding classroom will be ready for students in Fall 2025.



Total Bond Budget \$169M



	Spent to Date	Total Budgeted
ABHS	\$19.4M	\$44.5M
MSN	\$112,000	\$16.5M
MSS	\$63,000	\$23.2M
Lighthouse	\$52,000	\$9.2M
Lottie	\$25,000	\$5M
Naldrett	\$38,000	\$17.4M
Great Oaks	\$47,000	\$8M
Aquatic	\$47,000	\$1.7M
Ashley	\$32,000	\$18.8M
Maconce	\$37,000	\$8M
MacDonald	\$44,000	\$9.9M
ECC	\$27,000	\$800,000
Transportation	\$63,000	\$6.2M

What is Next - Summer Construction Projects

This summer, Anchor Bay High School will undergo a full roof replacement, and the media center renovations will be finished. As work at the high school nears completion, efforts will shift to the middle schools and Lighthouse Elementary. Lighthouse Elementary will receive an updated fire alarm system, architectural renovations, and a new early childhood playground as it transitions into an early childhood center by 2028. Additionally, district-wide technology upgrades - including new clocks, phones, and an emergency alert system - will improve communication and safety across all schools.

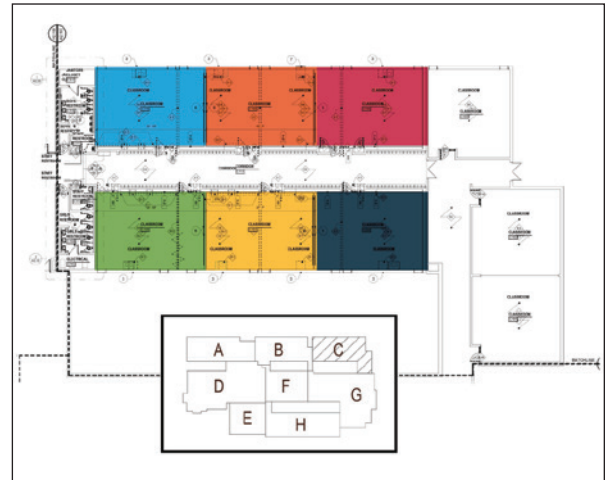
For the 2025-2026 school year, all 5th and 6th grade students will attend Middle School North, while 7th and 8th grade students will attend Middle School South. Updates will be made at both buildings to accommodate this new grade-level configuration. Most of the work this summer at Middle School North will focus on creating larger classrooms and a new playground area, designed based on feedback from a student survey conducted last school year.

Middle School South will also see renovations this summer, including a reconfigured auto shop space, a new band room, and small auxiliary practice rooms. Classroom enlargements and reconfigurations will continue in Summer 2026 to establish career pathway feeder programs. The goal is to give 7th and 8th grade students exposure to different career pathways, helping guide their course selections in high school.

District administrators are currently reviewing multiple scenarios to determine the best building start times and bus schedules for all students. A parent advisory committee, established at the beginning of the school year, has been actively addressing questions and concerns. A Frequently Asked Questions document about the Middle School Realignment is available on the district website under Bond Information, where updated building times and transportation details will be posted once finalized.



The Anchor Bay High School Media Center renovations will create more flexible and collaborative learning spaces.



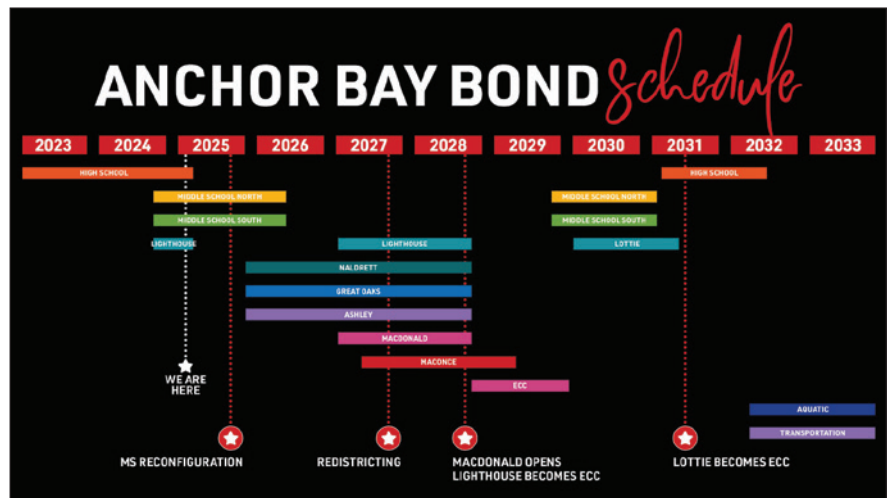
Middle School North demolition and renovation of A, B, and C wings will transition from eight to six classrooms per hallway to enlarge classroom space.

Shaping the Future of Anchor Bay for Years to Come!

With only 12% of the bond funds spent to date, there are still many exciting projects ahead as we shape the future of Anchor Bay School District.

The bond program is laying the foundation for a stronger, more innovative learning environment for all students - one that will benefit our community for years to come!

To see the full presentation from the March forum, visit the Anchor Bay Bond Info page at www.anchorbay.misd.net/bond-info/.





NEW FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

at *Anchor Bay*



School Starts Before Labor Day

Anchor Bay School District will begin the 2025-2026 school year before Labor Day, with the first day of school on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. We understand this is a

significant change for some families, so we encourage everyone to mark their calendars and plan summer vacations accordingly.

Trimesters

Anchor Bay School District will move to trimesters starting in Fall 2025. Switching to a trimester schedule offers several positive opportunities that benefits students, teachers, and overall school operations. Here are some key advantages.

- More Course Opportunities – Students can take more classes each year, allowing for greater exploration of electives, career pathways, and advanced coursework.
- Increased Flexibility – Students who need extra support have more chances to retake or recover credits within the school year, reducing summer school needs.
- Enhanced Elective and CTE Programs – Schools can offer a wider variety of electives and career-focused courses, enriching students’ educational experiences.

Building Reconfiguration

At the May 2024 Board of Education meeting, school board members approved a new grade-level configuration for the district. Beginning in Fall 2025:

- Kindergarten through 4th grade at elementary
- 5th and 6th graders will go to Middle School North
- 7th and 8th graders will go to Middle School South

This shift brings several advantages, ensuring a more unified and equitable experience for students.

Key benefits include:

- Expanded Opportunities – All students will have access to swimming, Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, and the reintroduction of 5th grade band.
- Stronger Community Connections – Students will grow up together from an earlier age, fostering stronger bonds and a more cohesive experience across academic and extracurricular programs, including athletics.

- Eliminating the Split Between Schools – This configuration removes the current division between middle school buildings, providing a seamless transition for students as they advance through their education.

Here are highlights from each building:

Middle School North - 5th & 6th

- 5th Grade Enrichments: Computers, Science, Art, STEM, PE, Swim, Music, and Band
- 5th Grade Intramural Sports
- 6th Grade Electives: Life Skills, Choir, Art, PE, Swim, Band, Broadcasting, Maker Space, and Writing
- 6th Grade Sports: Cross Country, Wrestling, Cheer, and Swimming
- Before & After School Age Child Care

Middle School South - 7th & 8th

- Junior Honors Academy with classes in Math, English, Science, & Social Studies
- Career Pathway & STEM classes including 3-D Printing, Medical Detectives, and App Creators
- Expanded options including Symphony Band and Advanced Art
- Earn Foreign Language High School Credit in Full-Year Spanish & Algebra
- Full Sports Program (No Pay-to-Play Fees)



Playground design for Middle School North includes basketball and pickleball courts, a baseball field, swing set, and community walking path. For Bond Updates and Frequently Asked Questions about the Middle School Realignment, visit www.anchorbay.misd.net/bond-info/.

Updates will be posted on www.anchorbay.misd.net and our social media pages:  **ABTarSpirit**

Away-for-the Day Device Policy

Beginning in the fall of 2025, Anchor Bay Schools will be implementing a “cell phone free” policy for all students during the school day. Under the new Away-for-the-Day requirements:

- Personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight in lockers or cubbies during school hours.
- The term “device” includes cell phones, personal laptops, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, and other wireless communication devices.
- The policy applies to all students, with legal exceptions for those covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individualized Education Programs (IEP), Section 504 Plans, or students with documented medical needs.

The district’s goal with this policy is to minimize distractions in the classroom, encourage face-to-face interactions, and enhance overall student engagement in learning. By eliminating the presence of personal electronic devices during the school day, Anchor Bay Schools aims to foster a more focused and interactive educational environment.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss this policy with their students and help ensure a smooth transition when the policy goes into effect.

Extra-Curricular Eligibility Policy

Anchor Bay Middle and High Schools will implement a new student eligibility policy starting in Fall 2025. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. The full policy including the details about the Academic Improvement Plan provisions can be found on the district website.

To participate in extracurricular activities (including dances, athletics, clubs, and performances), students must:

- Have satisfactory citizenship in at least 5 of 6 classes.
- Pass all 6 classes.
- Maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA from the previous semester.
- Athletes must adhere to the Anchor Bay Schools Athletic Code of Conduct.

Eligibility Consequences:

- At Progress Report/Quarter Report: Ineligible for 1 week. Eligibility can be restored with a signed progress report showing improvement.
- At Semester End: Ineligible for 60 school days unless granted a one-time GPA exception (if cumulative GPA is at least 3.0).

Provisional Eligibility for Athletics:

- Students meeting MHSAA standards (passing 4 of 6 classes) but failing Anchor Bay’s standards can apply for provisional eligibility by creating an Academic Improvement Plan with the Athletic Director or Assistant Principal.



SC4 Enhanced Dual Enrollment

ABHS is partnering with St. Clair County Community College (SC4) to offer students Enhanced Dual Enrollment opportunities. SC4 has designed three specialized pathways that align with our Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs, providing students with a focused and valuable approach to earning college credits.

Enhanced Dual Enrollment Pathways:

- Nursing – Complete SC4’s Associate Degree Nursing program prerequisite courses by the end of 12th grade.
- Business – Earn college credits toward a Business degree.
- Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) – Complete up to 25 transferable college credits to jumpstart your higher education.

Exclusive Benefits of SC4’s Enhanced Dual Enrollment:

- Free Unlimited Tutoring
- Early Grade & Attendance Alerts
- Convenient On-Campus Classes – Held at ABHS after school
- Cohort-Based Learning – Students will be grouped according to their CTE Pathway
- Supportive & Success-Driven – A personalized, career- focused college experience



Preschool & Kindergarten Information

PreK for All

The Michigan Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a state-funded initiative offering free, high-quality preschool education for four-year-old children. Historically, eligibility was based on family income, but the program has now expanded to provide free PreK for All Michigan four-year-olds, regardless of income.



Eligibility Requirements

- Age: Children must be four years old by September 1st of the enrollment year (or by December 1st if spots are available).
- Residency: The child must reside in Macomb or St. Clair County.
- Program Placement: Enrollment is based on eligibility factors determined by the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Lifelong Education, Advancement and Potential (MiLEAP). Spots are limited.

Program Highlights

- Full-Day Classes (Monday - Friday) – Includes free breakfast, lunch, and snacks
- Small Class Sizes – Max 18 students for more individualized attention
- Parent Involvement – Home visits, conferences, parent meetings, and volunteer opportunities
- Top-Ranked Education – GSRP is nationally ranked #1 for early childhood education
- Lead teachers have Bachelor's Degree in Early Education or State Certification with Early Childhood Endorsement; associate teachers meet state qualifications

Give Your Child a Strong Start!

By enrolling in PreK for All at Anchor Bay, families can ensure their children are well-prepared for kindergarten and future success. Michigan's commitment to expanding universal PreK ensures all children have access to high-quality early learning. For more information or to schedule a screening, call the Early Childhood Center at 586-716-7862.

Kindergarten Screening Process

Anchor Bay School District will offer two full-day Kindergarten options for Fall 2025: Traditional Kindergarten and Young 5's. All students enrolling in Traditional Kindergarten must complete a screening to assist with classroom placement.

- Duration: Each screening will take about 20 minutes
- Who Conducts the Screenings?
 - GSRP, Preschool, and ECSE teachers for students already enrolled in Anchor Bay programs.
 - Kindergarten teachers for new-to-district students.
- Parents of new-to-district students will receive a link to sign up for building-specific dates and times.
- Screening Schedule:
 - May – Screenings conducted.
 - June – Parents notified if their child is recommended for Young 5's.
 - August – Additional screening session for late summer enrollees.
- Health Requirements for All Incoming Kindergarteners:
 - Vision and Hearing Screening is required for enrollment.
 - Dental Screening must also be completed before attending Kindergarten.

This information is also available on the district website under the Enrollment/SOC tab. Parents are encouraged to review these details to ensure a smooth transition into Kindergarten.

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION NIGHTS

Buildings/Dates:

- Ashley** - May 1st, 5:00pm
- Naldrett** - May 1st, 5:00pm
- Great Oaks** - May 1st, 6:00pm
- Lighthouse** - May 7th, 5:00pm
- Maconce** - May 7th, 5:00pm
- Lottie** - May 8th, 5:30pm

**Visit the Building
Tour the Cafeteria
Meet Teachers
Participate in Classroom Fun**

Elementary Science Special Wins 2025 Excellence Award

The Anchor Bay Science Special has been recognized with a 2025 Education Excellence Award, a prestigious honor given to only 10 programs statewide by the SET SEG Foundation in partnership with the Michigan Association of School Boards. This award highlights innovative programs that make a significant impact on student learning.



As part of this achievement, the program received a \$2,500 grant, an "Education Excellence Award Winner" roadside sign, and a commemorative trophy.

Since its inception, the Anchor Bay Science Special has provided hands-on science experiences to over 2,400 elementary students, leading to remarkable improvements in science proficiency—jumping from 36% to over 62%, with advanced proficiency rising from just 0.5% to 33.6%. This program has not only enhanced student achievement but has also fueled enthusiasm for STEM education, inspiring young learners to continue exploring science in the years ahead.

Anchor Bay Schools is incredibly proud of this recognition and remains committed to providing innovative and engaging learning opportunities.

ABHS Designs & Paints "Blizzard Wizard" Plow



Anchor Bay High School students designed and painted the 'Blizzard Wizard' snow plow for the Macomb County Department of Roads. The plow was proudly presented to County Executive Mark Hackel in January, showcasing the incredible talent of our design and art students. This project was a fantastic example of creativity, teamwork, and cross-curricular collaboration!

2025 CTE Students of the Year



We are proud to recognize **Lilly Foster** (Business Pathway) and **Lily London** (Graphic Arts Pathway) for their outstanding achievements. These exceptional students were honored at the February Board of Education meeting and the MISD Awards Breakfast. Well done, Lilly and Lily!

Kaleidoscope Authors

Congratulations to this year's students who had their stories published in the Kaleidoscope Magazine:



- **Dylan Stanek**, Ashley - "Winning Districts"
- **Cordelia Offer**, Great Oaks - "Talking Raccoons"
- **Audreanna Ha**, Lighthouse - "Chicago"
- **Ellison Davey**, Lottie - "The Day I Met Bruno"
- **Zachary Zelenak**, Maconce - "Jaimy the Star"
- **Bradley Bommarito**, Naldrett - "What Christmas is About"
- **Adrienne Cherget**, MSN - "Flickering Light"
- **Carter Muscat**, MSS - "Weezer"

AED Donated for ABHS Gym



An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was donated to Anchor Bay High School by Liz Jekielek from Jekielek Insurance Group and Farm Bureau Insurance.

The AED was presented to ABHS Principal Mike Mackenzie and students in the Medical Education III class - Elyssa Starna, Lauren Wilkenson, Mick Barns, and Zhenya Knowlin in recognition of Heart Health Awareness Month.

Anchor Bay School District

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Nondiscrimination Policy

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The American with Disability Act of 1990, and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Anchor Bay School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. For information, contact Human Resources, 5201 County Line Re., Suite 100, Casco, MI 48064, (586) 725-2861.

2025-2026 Open Enrollment *at Anchor Bay!*

New Student Registration &
K-11 Schools of Choice
for the 2025-26 School Year is
NOW OPEN



**Excited to join the Anchor Bay family?
We are excited to have you!**

Our online enrollment system is open to new students for next school year. Information can be found on our website. Click on the "Enrollment & SOC" tab.

The Schools of Choice Open Enrollment Application Period for the 2025-2026 school year will be February 15th through August 30, 2025.

2024-25 Calendar

Subject to Change

- March 24-28** • No School – Spring Break
- March 31** • School Resumes
- April 4** • End of Third Quarter
- April 18** • No School
- April 21** • Professional Development Day
No Students in Attendance
- April 22** • School Resumes
- May 6** • Professional Development Day
No Students in Attendance
- May 23** • Half Day All Students
- May 26** • No School – Memorial Day
- June 9** • Half Day Middle School and High School, Exam Day
- June 10** • Half Day All Students, Middle School and High School Exam Day
- June 11** • Half Day All Students, Middle School and High School Exam Day
Last Day of School

*Get all calendar events and the full 2025-2026
Calendar on the district website.*

www.anchorbay.misd.net