



ANCHOR BAY TODAY

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



Message From the Superintendent

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! We are thrilled to begin another year and to once again greet our students with many exciting updates that build upon our past successes.

Over the summer, our district completed major construction projects at four of our school buildings, transforming them into modern, inspiring spaces for learning and growth. The high school finished the first round of updates, and our new restaurant, engineering lab, auto shop, weight room, and robotics areas are ready to welcome students. Likewise, Middle School North now features a transformed 5th-grade wing and a new playground.

Lighthouse Elementary saw two of its three wings renovated with new electrical systems, lighting, flooring, ceilings, and hallways. Meanwhile, Middle School South is nearing completion on a new band room. In addition, we've been upgrading our phone, public address, and clock systems, while also adding an emergency alert system. These improvements reflect our commitment to providing safe, innovative, and inclusive environments where every student can thrive. From new classrooms and collaborative learning areas to enhanced technology and sustainability features, these upgrades are already making a positive impact.

Even more exciting, our district has been honored with the Michigan Association of School Boards' **Education Excellence Award**—a prestigious recognition earned by only 10 districts statewide. This award celebrates our dedication to academic achievement, student support, and community engagement. It is a testament to the hard work of our elementary science educators, the curiosity and determination of our students, and the unwavering support of our families and staff.

We are also proud to share that the latest state assessment scores have been released, and Anchor Bay once again ranked near the top of the county. Overall, our district achieved the highest English Language Arts and Reading composite proficiency across all grades for the second consecutive year. In addition, Anchor Bay placed second in the county for composite proficiency in Math, Science, and Social Studies.

As we begin this new chapter, we carry forward the momentum of these accomplishments with pride and purpose. Let's continue to build on our success, support one another, and make this school year one of growth, joy, and excellence.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Phil Jankowski



Phil Jankowski

Ashley Elementary

Dean A. Naldrett
Elementary

Great Oaks
Elementary

Lighthouse
Elementary

Lottie M. Schmidt
Elementary

Maconce
Elementary

Anchor Bay
Middle School
North (5/6)

Anchor Bay
Middle School
South (7/8)

Anchor Bay
High School

MacDonald Early
Childhood Center

Early Childhood
Center

Aquatic Center

BOND *update*

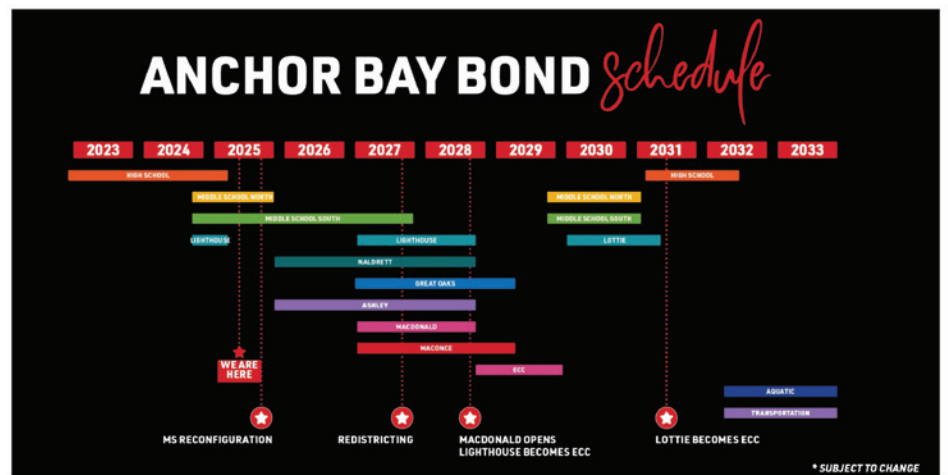
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANCHOR BAY SCHOOL DISTRICT?



Welcome Back to School, Anchor Bay!

While students and staff enjoyed a well-deserved summer break, we remained hard at work across the district—delivering on the promises made through the Anchor Bay 2022 Bond Program. These summer construction projects mark another important step forward in creating modern, safe, and inspiring learning environments for our students.

Here's a look at the progress made over the summer:



More information on future projects can be found on Page 6.

Lighthouse Elementary

This summer, Lighthouse Elementary received several upgrades that enhance safety and create a motivating learning environment. Improvements include updated fire alarm systems, ceiling and drywall installation, fresh paint and new flooring.

Lighthouse Elementary received a new playground and facility upgrades in preparation for its conversion into an Early Childhood Center by 2028.



Middle School South

At Middle School South, bond-funded renovations focused on enhancing specialized learning spaces. The band room received a thoughtful refresh to better serve our music program, and the small engine room was updated to support hands-on learning for students exploring technical education pathways. Outside improvements included new restrooms by the athletic fields.



Middle School North

Middle School North saw a major transformation this summer, especially in our 5th grade classrooms. Renovations included enlarging classrooms by revising wall layouts in a 4-to-3 and 3-to-2 conversion approach. This heavy construction included masonry and demolition, new drywall, fresh paint, updated ceilings and flooring, and the exciting addition of a brand-new playground. Elements of the playground were voted on by our students.

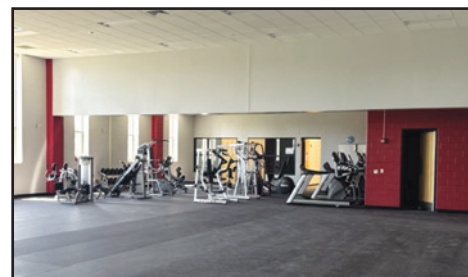
These changes create a brighter, more engaging environment for our students to learn and grow.



High School

Anchor Bay High School underwent significant renovations across several key areas.

The media center and athletic wing were renovated, a new pump station was installed, and work began on innovative engineering pathways and a dedicated Student Success Center. Also, our new addition featuring the kitchen, serving area, auto shop as well as robotics, engineering and welding will be operational this fall. These updates are designed to expand opportunities and support student achievement now and into the future.



These upgrades represent our continued commitment to following through on the goals outlined in the bond, all while staying on schedule. We're excited to see students and staff experience the benefits of these improvements firsthand.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR BOND WEBSITE - ANCHORBAY.MISD.NET/BOND-INFO/



NEW FOR THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR

at *Anchor Bay*

Away-for-the Day Device Policy

Anchor Bay Schools has 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 during school hours. (Bell-to-Bell)
- 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.

Extra-Curricular Eligibility Policy

Anchor Bay Middle and High Schools has implemented a new student eligibility policy.

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.

The full policy including the details about the Academic Improvement Plan provisions can be found on the district website.

Trimesters

Anchor Bay School District has moved to trimesters. Switching to a trimester schedule offers several positive opportunities that benefits students, teachers, and overall school operations.

Trimester One	Trimester Two	Trimester Three
Aug. 25 - Nov. 21	Nov. 24 - Mar. 6	Mar. 7 - June 5

Parent – Teacher Conference Week will run for a two-week period at both the elementary and secondary level. The conference window will run from October 6th-17th. Information will be shared with specific dates and times from each school.

Here are some key advantages to moving to trimesters:

- More Course Opportunities
- Increased Flexibility
- Enhanced Elective and CTE Programs

Building Reconfiguration

Grade-level shifts for K-8 students include:

- 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.

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 programs:

- 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.

Welcome New Administrators



Heidi Stephenson - Director of Elementary Education

We are pleased to introduce Heidi Stephenson as the new Director of Elementary Education for Anchor Bay School District. With 29 years of dedicated service in Anchor Bay, Heidi brings a depth of experience as a teacher, instructional leader, and principal. Throughout her career, Heidi has been committed to supporting students, families, and staff, fostering a strong positive culture of learning and collaboration. We are excited to welcome Heidi Stephenson into this new role and look forward to her continued leadership in advancing excellence across our elementary schools.



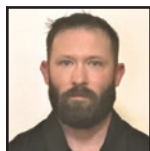
Megan Lembas - Naldrett Elementary Principal

Naldrett Elementary is proud to welcome new principal and Anchor Bay School District alumni Meghan Lembas. Meghan brings 15 years of experience from Maconce Elementary, where she served as a first-grade teacher, fourth-grade teacher, and most recently, instructional coach. She believes in the power of strong relationships, collaboration, and cultivating a positive school culture. Her focus is on creating a supportive, welcoming environment where students can thrive and staff feel appreciated, empowered, and inspired. Meghan is excited to continue the great work already happening at Naldrett and looks forward to building on it together as a team.



Christopher LaFeve - Lighthouse Elementary Principal

Chris LaFeve has been named the new principal of Lighthouse Elementary. A proud graduate of Anchor Bay School District, Mr. LaFeve describes this opportunity as a true homecoming. With 16 years of experience in education, he has served as a principal and assistant principal for the past eight years and has worked at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in both Michigan and Georgia. His diverse background has shaped his belief that every child deserves a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment. Mr. LaFeve is excited to join a school and community that values student growth, collaboration, and excellence.



Daniel Chenoweth - Security Supervisor

We're excited to welcome Dan Chynoweth as our new Security Supervisor. Dan brings over 15 years of experience in military and school security, including six years in the U.S. Air Force as a Staff Sergeant in Security Forces. For the past nine years, he has focused on school safety—conducting threat assessments, training staff in crisis de-escalation, and leading district-wide emergency planning. Most recently, Dan served as District Safety Officer for Avondale Schools, where he oversaw security for eight buildings and led a team of security personnel. He's passionate about building safe, supportive environments for students and staff and looks forward to serving the Anchor Bay community.



GO TARs!

The Middle School Realignment has also changed the schools' mascots. All secondary students are now Tars!!

Photo from Middle School South's orientation day.



Summer School

Anchor Bay School District hosted another summer of great programs for students.

Summer Child Care & Preschool:

- 80 SACC Kids & 50 Preschoolers
- 30 Staff Members
- 9 Field Trips & Weekly In-House Activities

Summer School:

- 180 General Education Elementary and 22 General Education Middle School Students
- 69 Students in Special Education Summer Classes
- 41 Staff Members
- 23 Teacher Cadets

Credit Recovery Program:

- 66 Total Students Enrolled
- 10 Courses Completed
- 110 Half Credits Earned



Summer SACC had a great time at the Clay Township splash pad!

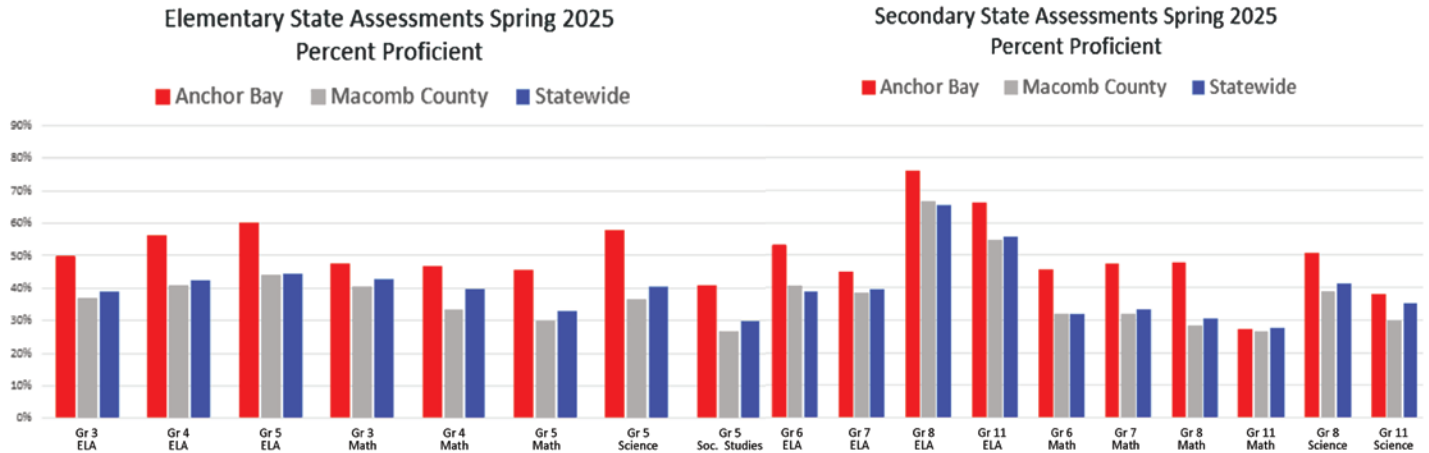
Inspiring Future Tech Leaders

Anchor Bay High School hosted **Camp Infinity**, a technology camp designed to inspire the next generation of female leaders in tech. During the camp, students created their own multi-page websites using HTML and CSS, and explored coding through hands-on activities.

In addition to building technical skills, the campers had the opportunity to connect with professional mentors who encouraged them to continue exploring technology and pursue their interests with confidence.



Anchor Bay Students Shine on State Assessments



The Spring 2025 State Assessment scores are in, and Anchor Bay continues to stand out as a leader in the county. Our district not only exceeded state benchmarks but also earned top scores among local public schools in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies.

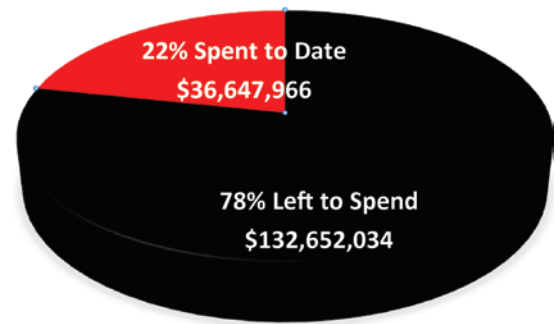
These outstanding results reflect the dedication and teamwork of the entire Anchor Bay community. From teachers and paraprofessionals to office staff, food service, custodians, transportation, parents, and administrators—every role plays a part in supporting student success. Together, we've built an environment where students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

BOND *update* Budget and Future Projects for 2026

Only 22% of the bond funds have been 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!

Total Bond Budget \$169M



2026 Planned Projects

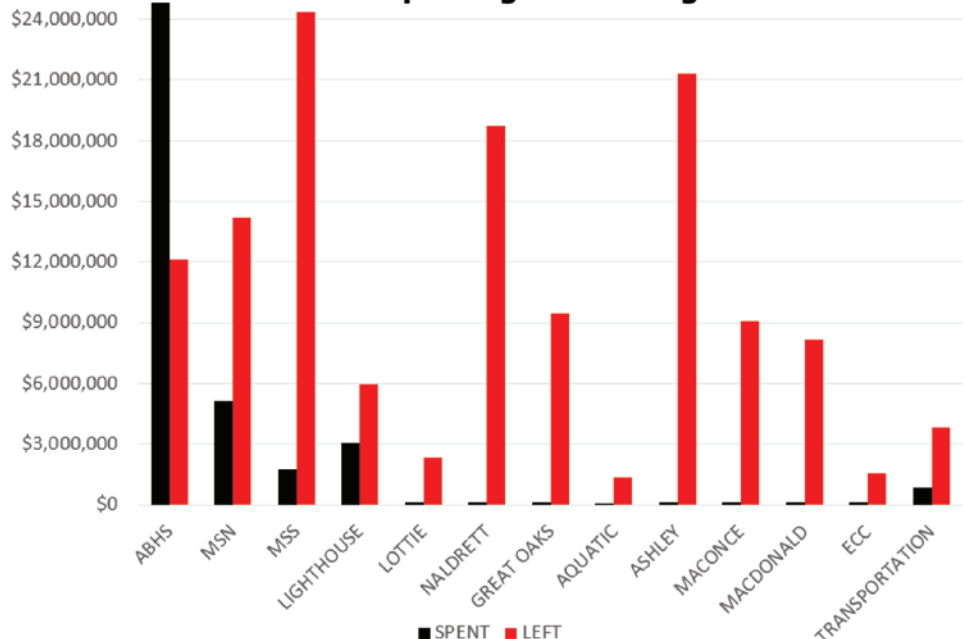
Middle School South:

- Renovations to the main office, life skills room, cheer & wrestling room, bathrooms, as well as many classrooms.
- Site improvements in the front of the building.
- Fire Alarm upgrades throughout the entire building.

Ashley & Naldrett:

- Media Center Addition.
- Multi-Classroom Addition.
- Kitchen Upgrades.
- Miscellaneous Building Architectural Finish Improvements.

Bond Spending Per Building



Annual Required Notifications

The following notices are required by law for Anchor Bay School District to publish annually to its community. The notices make community members aware of their rights in regard to directory information, education records, pupil rights, etc. More annual notifications are available online at www.anchorbay.misd.net under the "Parent" tab.

Directory Information

The federal law known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 30 days after the day the School District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their education records should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal or designee will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School District to amend their child's or their education record should submit a written request to the school principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specifying why they believe it should be changed. If the School District decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student at the time they are notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3) The right to provide written consent before the School District discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A designated school official with a legitimate educational interest includes a person employed by the School District as an administrator, teacher, or other person designated by the Board of Education. A school official also includes a liaison officer who, while not employed by the School District, may be granted access to student educational records (including video footage) at the direction and supervision of a school administrator. A school official also may include a contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the School District, performs an institutional service or function (such as design and maintenance of the School District's security camera system) for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the School District with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from student education records.
- 4) The right to refuse to allow the disclosure of "directory information". The word "parents," when used in these Annual Notifications includes legal guardians and, where required by law, those acting in the place of parents. "Directory information" regarding a student may be released to any requesting person or party, in addition to the eligible student or his/her parent, without written consent. The Board of Education has defined "directory information" to include a student's: Name; Address and telephone number; Photograph; Birth date and place of birth; Participation in School District related programs and extracurricular activities; Academic awards and honors; Height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; Honors and awards; and Dates of attendance and date of graduation. In the event inconsistency exists between the Board of Education policy defining "directory information" and this annual notification, the policy prevails.

Each year, the Superintendent, or his/her designee, will provide public notice to students and parents of the School District's intent to make directory information available to students and parents. Common uses for students' directory information, which include, but are not limited to: a student's name, address and telephone number; a student's photograph; a student's birth date and place of birth; a student's participation in School District related programs and extracurricular activities; a student's academic awards and honors;

a student's height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; a student's honors and awards; and a student's dates of attendance and date of graduation. If you do not want the School District to release your or your student's directory information, you may. Eligible students and parents may refuse to allow the School District to disclose any or all of such directory information upon written notification to the School District within thirty (30) days after receipt of the School District's public notice. Parents may submit written notification to the building principal of their child's school and/or fill out the attached FERPA Opt-Out Form.

- 5) The right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue SW Washington DC 20202-5280

Nondiscrimination

No person may be denied admission to any school in the School District, be denied the benefits of or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, or other School District program or activity based on the person's gender, religion, race, color, national origin or ancestry, age, disability, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic. The Board of Education has adopted a Discrimination and Harassment Policy which prohibits all forms of illegal harassment and discrimination within the School District. Any person who believes that he/she has been the victim of discrimination may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the procedures that have been established by the School District. A person wishing to pursue a complaint may also contact the School District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer, (the Special Education Supervisor at 586-725-2861, or visit the Special Education offices at 5201 County Line Road, Casco 48064, during regular business hours (8a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Under the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and School District policy, no student will be required as a part of the school program or the School District's curriculum, without prior parental consent, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- Sexual behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
- Legally-recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical examinations and screenings. Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will be given access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal. Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Student Privacy Policy Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue SW Washington, DC 20202.

Public Pesticide Application Notice

The Board of Education has adopted a policy to provide students and staff with an environment that is free of pests, pesticides, and harmful chemicals to the extent required by law. The Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) includes routine inspections or surveys of all school facilities and various strategies to prevent pests from becoming a problem. Pesticides are used only as a last resort and parents will be notified prior to a pesticide application in a school building or on school grounds.

Anchor Bay School District

5201 County Line Rd.

Casco, MI 48064

Phone: 586-725-2861

www.anchorbay.misd.net

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Facebook & Instagram:

@ABTarSpirit

**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 School Year Calendar*Subject to Change*

Join us for the
*Ribbon Cutting
&
Grand Opening*
of the NEW
**Shoreliner
Restaurant**
at Anchor Bay High School.
**October 17, 2025
6:00pm-7:00pm**



ABHS Athletics Calendar
can be found online at
gotars.net.

- Nov. 4** • No School – Election Day
- Nov. 20 – 21** • Half Day All Students, Middle and High School Exam Days
- Nov. 21** • End of First Trimester
- Nov. 24 – 25** • Professional Development Days – No Students in Attendance
- Nov. 26 – 28** • No School – Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1** • School Resumes
- Dec. 22 – Jan. 2** • No School – Winter Break
- Jan. 5** • School Resumes
- Jan. 19** • Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
- Feb. 13** • Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
- Feb. 16** • No School – Mid Winter Break
- Feb. 17** • School Resumes
- March 5 – 6** • Half Day All Students, Middle and High School Exam Days
- March 6** • End of Second Trimester
- Mar. 30 - Apr 6** • No School – Spring Break
- Apr. 7** • School Resumes
- May 5** • Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
- May 25** • No School – Memorial Day
- June 4 – 5** • Half Day All Students, Middle and High School Exam Days
- June 5** • End of Third Trimester, Half Day All Students, Last Day of School

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