

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Fall 2025

Homecoming 2025: A Reverse Celebration and a Panther Victory

This year's Homecoming was packed with sunshine, school spirit, and an unanticipated twist—a "Reverse Homecoming" schedule! The evening kicked off with the crowning of Homecoming Queen Melina Sayre, followed by the Homecoming Dance, and wrapped up under the Friday night lights for the big game.

Earlier in the day, the Homecoming Parade rolled through town with creative class floats, a spirited court, and tons of support from students, staff, and community groups. The Twining family was honored at the head of the parade for their lasting impact and dedication to the Stockbridge community.

The night ended with an exciting finish as the Panthers beat Union City 25–18, holding them off at the two-yard line in the final seconds. Quarterback Noah Sandecki led the charge with three touchdown passes and one rushing score, while the defense stayed strong to stop a late comeback.

Homecoming 2025 will definitely be remembered as a year of pride, creativity, and Panther perseverance—celebrating old traditions in a fresh new way!









On De Are Stockbridge

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HOMECOMING COURT Freshman Queen

Lillian Topping, Escort Kipp Vogel

Sophomore Queen

 Gabriella Ramalia, Escort Wyatt O'Koney

Junior Queen

Bella Glenn, Escort DJ Sheedy

Senior Queens

- Lilliana Ramalia, Escort John Salyer
- Gianna Watts, Escort
 Terrence Cordero
- Infinity Bills, Escort Kyle Cheesman
- Melina Sayre, Escort Kameryn Gross
- Lyla Thomas, Escort Brandon Hamlett
- Airiana Smith, Escort Daniel Villegas
- Alecia Smith, Escort Keagan Porter



To Our Stockbridge Families,

We're eight weeks into the school year, and what a great start it's been! The energy and excitement your students bring every day remind us why our core messages matter so much:

We Want You Here. Every Student. Every Day. Every Panther Belongs.

We're so thankful to the many families who have joined us in reaching our attendance goal: For Panther Success, Miss 9 Days or Less!

Because of your support, we're already seeing the difference regular attendance makes. Students who come to school every day are more connected, more confident, and more engaged in class and with friends. Thank you for helping your child build

strong routines that make daily attendance possible. Our new phone-free environment is also helping students focus more and participate in learning each day.

Being at school every day isn't just about grades—it's also about building life skills like responsibility, communication, and teamwork. These skills will help our students succeed far beyond school.

If your family is dealing with challenges that make it hard to attend regularly, please reach out. Whether it's transportation, health, or family changes, we're here to help find solutions. You're not alone, and we want to support you!

By now, you should have received your attendance tracking magnet to help keep track of absences at home. Many families have found it helpful for staying consistent and aware.

We're also expanding Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) across the district to promote positive choices and behaviors. We're already seeing students and staff showing more kindness, encouragement, and school spirit—from hallway high-fives to uplifting words. This connects with our district theme, "Spark the Right Fire," reminding us that small actions can make a big difference in someone's day.

Also, please take a look at our Communication Protocol to help you reach the right person quickly when questions or concerns come up. Clear communication helps us work together to support your child's success.

Thank you for your continued support—for sending your child to school each day and for believing in the power of being present, connected, and engaged. Let's keep this positive momentum going and make this one of our best school years yet!

Go Panthers!

BRIAN FRIDDLE

Superintendent 517-851-7188, ext. 5503

friddleb@panthernet.net





If you ever have questions, please check our district website for updates and information about what's happening at your student's school.

Smith Elementary



Heritage School



Jr/Sr High School

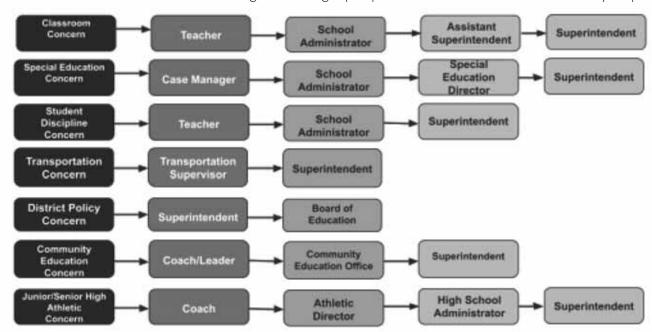




WE ARE STOCKBRIDGE!

Communication Protocol

Please use this communication structure when sharing any concerns with Stockbridge Community Schools. Following this process helps everyone stay on the same page and makes it easier to solve problems quickly. It also helps improve communication so questions or concerns get to the right people and can be handled as smoothly as possible.



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Stockbridge Students and Staff Celebrate Academic Growth

Stockbridge Community Schools is excited to share that student learning has improved across the district! On Friday, September 12, 2025, students and staff celebrated these big academic gains with special events at each school.

The district's focus on student engagement, strong relationships, and effective teaching strategies is paying off. Teachers have worked hard to use research-based methods and to connect with students in meaningful ways. This balance—great teaching and strong relationships—has helped students stay motivated and perform their best.

Even more exciting is the increase in student engagement. Students are taking more responsibility for their learning, and it shows in both their effort and their results. To celebrate this progress, schools across the district held fun recognition events for students and staff. Everyone worked hard—from teachers to families—and it made a real difference.

The district plans to keep building on this momentum. With teamwork, dedication, and community support, Stockbridge students are learning more every day and preparing for bright futures ahead.

The results show clear growth in every core subject:

- Literacy scores increased nearly 5% in grades
 3-7, with 8th grade increasing more than 7%
- A 9.6% overall increase in math scores on the MSTEP for grades 3–7, with some grades improving as much as 27%
- Science scores went up 11% to 20% in grades 5, 8, and 11
- Social studies scores increased 9.2% to 15.9% across those same grades



The Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation is a public non-profit 501(3)(c) committed to supporting educational opportunities for members of the Stockbridge community. To make donations to the Stockbridge Area Educational Foundation, or apply for grants or scholarships, please contact the Central Office at 517-851-7188.

www.panthernet.net/saef





MEET MS. RACHEL TIERNEY!

We're thrilled to welcome Ms. Tierney to Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School as our new School Social Worker!

Ms. Tierney earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from New York University and is a licensed clinical social worker as well as a certified school social worker. She brings valuable experience from nearby districts, along with a strong passion for helping students and families succeed.

Her expertise and caring approach make her a wonderful addition to our team, and we're excited for the positive impact she'll have on our school community.

"Having grown up in rural Michigan, I am very excited to work with the students, families, and dedicated staff here at Stockbridge Junior/Senior High School—building strong relationships in service of our students and the community," said Ms. Tierney.

MEET MS. ALYSSA RANDALL!

This is Ms. Randall's first year teaching at Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High School, and we're so excited to have her on our team! She earned her associate degree in General Studies from Schoolcraft College and her bachelor's degree in Education and Social Studies from Eastern Michigan University. She teaches General World History, AP World History, Psychology and Mythology.





Ms. Randall brings great energy to our school—along with experience in both teaching and coaching. Her positive attitude and focus on building strong relationships make her a wonderful addition to the team.

"I'm happy to be at Stockbridge Jr./Sr. High because it gives me the chance to make a lasting difference in students' lives. Teaching lets me share my love of learning and history while helping students discover their own strengths, voices, and potential," said Ms. Randall.

Welcome Ms. Warner

We are pleased to announce that Regina Warner joined our district in September as the new Business Manager. Ms. Warner brings extensive experience in financial oversight, payroll processing, grant management, and operations. These are all critical to supporting our school district's smooth and effective operations.

Ms. Warner has held multiple positions in the business office from business manager, to accounts payable and payroll. Her most recent employment was as the business manager for Waldron Area Schools where she performed all of these services.

Ms. Warner's dedication to continuous learning and her ability to adapt quickly make her a valuable addition to our leadership team. We look forward to the expertise and energy she brings to support our students, staff, and families.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Warner to our district!



STOCKBRIDGE JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Homecoming Highlights



















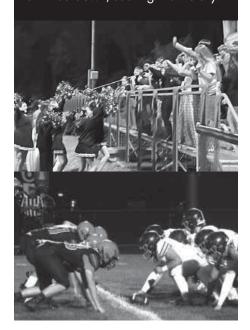
THE BIG GAME Panthers Knock Off Union City

The night concluded with a nail-biting Homecoming football game, where Stockbridge knocked off previously undefeated Union City 25-18.

Offense Highlights: Quarterback Noah Sandecki threw three touchdown passes and ran for another. Big plays included a 69yard strike to Jayson Conant, plus scoring connections with Aidan Bradley and Brandon Hamlett.

Defense Highlights: The Panthers' defense, led by Domenic Ciminelli (13 tackles) and Noah Beauregard (11 tackles, 2 TFL, 1 sack), held firm in the final seconds, stopping Union City at the two-yard line to preserve the win.

Climactic Finish: After a late Union City comeback and onside kick recovery, Stockbridge's defense made a final stand on an untimed down, sealing the victory.





HOW WE HELP OUR STUDENTS!

MRS. OESTERLE

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES **ADVISOR**

- Advisor

- Dual Enrollment
- Wilson Talent Center
- Graduation

MRS. CARLING

- Social-Emotional Counseling
- Individual/Small **Group Counseling**
- Behavior Plans/Monitoring
- 504's
- AP Coordinator
- Foster/Homeless Liaison

Mrs. Sara Oesterle

oesterles@panthernet.net 517-851-7770 Ext. 6307







HERITAGE SCHOOL

Welcome Back to the 2025–2026 School Year!

We're so excited to welcome back our amazing students and families for another great year of learning, growth, and connection. Your support means so much to us, and we're thankful to partner with you in helping your child learn and succeed. We Want You Here!

Being at school every day is one of the best ways for students to learn, grow, and build strong relationships with teachers and friends. Every single day matters—both for academics and for social and emotional growth. Even missing a few days can make it harder to keep up, so we remind our students often: We Want You Here!

This year, we're keeping our monthly attendance challenge! The class with the highest attendance each month will earn a special reward. It's a fun way to



build school spirit and encourage everyone to show up and do their best. So far, our Panthers are off to an awesome start—97% of Heritage students are attending school every day. Keep it up, Panthers!

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

We kicked off the first day of school with a high-energy assembly full of music, laughter, and excitement for the year ahead! Students reviewed our PBIS expectations and joined in on community-building games. A highlight of the morning was our school-wide Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament—congratulations to 3rd grader Alessandra, our champion, and 5th grader Gabby, the runner-up! We ended the celebration with a big, school-wide Wave, showing that we're ready to ride the waves of learning, laughter, and growth all year long.



ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

Our teachers are off to a great start, creating hands-on lessons that spark curiosity and make learning fun. From science challenges to field trips, every classroom is focused on helping students grow and reach their full potential.

THE STEAM TOWER CHALLENGE

Our 6th graders started strong with a STEAM tower-building challenge—they had to design towers that could hold a bucket of marbles without touching the ground! What looked like fun was actually full of learning:

- Science: Gravity, balance, and stability
- Technology: Using tools and materials to solve problems
- Engineering: Redesigning and improving ideas
- Art: Adding creative design choices
- Math: Measuring and problem-solving

Every wobble and rebuild was a lesson in creativity, resilience, and teamwork—plus, it was a blast!



ELA AND FFA ADVENTURES

In Ms. Marcum's ELA class, 6th graders have been sharpening their vocabulary and reading skills to start the year strong.

Meanwhile, Ms. Whitt and Ms. Newburn's 5th graders took a fun field trip to the Junior/Senior High, where they worked with FFA students to pick apples and make their own cider! It was a day full of teamwork, learning, and, of course, delicious results.









HOMECOMING FUN

Homecoming Week was bursting with Panther pride! Students dressed up for theme days and cheered as the high school cross country team carried the homecoming football through Heritage on its way to the big game. High school athletes also greeted our students at the doors, making it a week full of fun, connection, and community spirit.

LOOKING AHEAD

We can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds! From leadership opportunities for 5th and 6th graders to clubs, robotics, athletics, family nights, concerts, and special events, there will be so many chances for our students to shine.

We look forward to celebrating growth at achievement assemblies, diving into March is Reading Month, and creating countless moments of learning, laughter, and Panther pride along the way. Thank you for your continued support—it's going to be an amazing year together!



SMITH ELEMENTARY

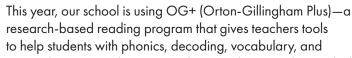
Off to a Great Start to the 2025–26 School Year!

The new school year is off to an amazing start at Emma L. Smith Elementary! Our students returned full of energy and excitement, and our teachers have worked hard to create a warm and welcoming place to learn. From handson classroom activities to laughter on the playground, it's already clear that this will be a great year. We're excited for all the learning, growth, and fun ahead. Thank you to our families for your continued support—we're so glad to partner with you as we build a strong, connected school community. Here's to an awesome year ahead!

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LITERACY

At Smith Elementary, we're continuing to focus on reading and language skills, especially in the early grades. Research shows that learning to read well at a young age sets students up for success later in school. That's why we're investing in strong early literacy programs, classroom materials, and teacher training to help every child become a confident reader.





comprehension. With OG+, teachers can better understand what each student needs and provide the right support to build strong reading foundations.

Families play a big role in this, too! Reading together at home—even just 15 minutes a day—can make a big difference. Whether it's a bedtime story, a trip to the library, or letting your child "read" to you using pictures, every little bit helps. Together, we can help your child grow into a confident, curious, and lifelong reader!

WHAT IS PBIS AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

At Smith Elementary, we believe that a positive and supportive school environment helps every child learn and grow. That's why we use PBIS, which stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. **PBIS focuses on teaching and encouraging good behavior rather than just reacting when things go wrong.** Our PBIS program is built around four key values:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be Kind

These values are taught just like any other subject—through modeling, practice, and positive reinforcement. You'll see posters around the school reminding students how to make good choices, like walking safely in the hallways or using kind words. When students show these behaviors, they can earn Panther Pride cards, and each week two are drawn for Panther Champions, who receive a small prize and help with morning announcements. We also hold monthly assemblies to celebrate positive behavior and teamwork across the school.

By working together—students, teachers, and families—we're building a culture where kindness and respect come first. PBIS helps make our school a place where every student feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.



NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This year, we're thrilled to welcome two new teachers to the Smith Elementary family—Mr. Mike Jensen and Ms. Corrine Clouse!

Mr. Jensen, our new Special Education Teacher, brings over 20 years of experience and a big heart for helping students succeed. Originally from San Diego, he has taught in many different settings—including overseas in Germany and Latvia—and loves learning about different cultures. He was inspired to teach by his brother, Scott, whose school experience showed him how important extra support can be. Mr. Jensen is excited to join our community and even attended his first Michigan football game at the Big House!





Ms. Clouse joins our first-grade team. She's a recent graduate of Western Governors University and brings

great enthusiasm to her first year of teaching. **Before becoming a teacher**, **she worked in childcare for five years with children from infancy through age three.** She loves exploring new ideas and helping her students find joy in learning. When she's not in the classroom, she enjoys spending time outdoors or reading a good book. We're so happy to have her at Smith!

WHAT IS MTSS AND HOW DOES IT SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

At Smith Elementary, our goal is to make sure every student gets the help they need to succeed. We use a system called MTSS, or Multi-Tiered System of Supports, to make that happen. MTSS helps teachers identify students' strengths and challenges early, then provide the right level of help—whether that's small group lessons, one-on-one support, or enrichment for advanced learners.

In the early grades, MTSS is especially important for catching learning gaps in reading and math before they grow. Teachers regularly check how students are progressing and adjust lessons as needed. If a student needs extra help, short targeted lessons are added to build skills and confidence.

We also review both academic and behavioral data as a team to make sure every child is on track. Families are an important part of this process. You'll always be informed if your child needs extra support—and we welcome your input and partnership to make sure your child gets what they need to succeed.

Together, we can make sure every student at Smith Elementary learns, grows, and shines!





Mrs. Whitt's class won the GOAT award in October for the most students making progress in Spring Math. Great job!!!





PANTHER ATHLETICS

Stockbridge's fall sports teams have seen a great competitive environment and battled to represent the school and community well.

Our football team has welcomed several new staff members and is rostering one of the highest participation percentages in school history.

Our volleyball program has hosted two successful tournaments and will be hosting the League Tournament the last week of October.

Our cross country team has posted numerous personal records in addition to making school history with a 73 mile homecoming run.

The Boys' Soccer program recorded the first league title in program history!

All of this cannot be done without you! We so appreciate your continued involvement and support. Go Panthers!



WINTER REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN... SIGN UP TODAY!



WANT MORE UPDATES?

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@Stockbridge Jr/Sr High School









ZERO MIL RENEWAL

If THIS BOND IS APPROVED, IT WON'T RAISE YOUR ANNUAL TAX RATE
It will continue the current rate of 3.3 mills you're already paying

SMART INVESTMENTS FOR STRONGER SCHOOLS

JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

- Replace the roof
- New equipment for Home Economics classes
- Fix plumbing and drainage problems
- Replace student devices and technology
- Replace classroom equipment and technology
- Build a new pole barn for Ag Science, FFA, and Career Technical Education and storage space for the district
- Renovate locker rooms
- Replace the athletic track
- Make improvements to athletic fields
- Replace the shot put area
- Repave parking lots
- Add more parking near the ball fields
- Upgrade the press box and concession area
- Add new T-ball field

HERITAGE SCHOOL

- Replace boilers
- Replace student devices and technology
- Replace classroom equipment and technology
- Replace the roof

DISTRICT

- Purchase busses
- Replace infrastructure to support modern technology

SMITH ELEMENTARY

- Update the kitchen and cafeteria
- Renovate restrooms
- Replace student devices and technology
- Replace classroom equipment and technology
- Replace the roof
- Repave the parking lot
- Add more parking spaces near the school

This bond will fund practical improvements that benefit every part of a student's day — from safer buildings and updated classrooms to better spaces for learning, playing, and growing. It's a responsible investment in a safer, stronger school experience for all Panthers.



SMART INVESTMENTS.
STRONGER SCHOOLS.

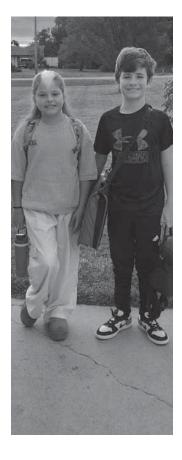
WE WANT YOU HERE!





Back-to-School Photo Round-Up! #smiles













Greetings from Clyde Whitaker, Stockbridge Class of '77. I'll never forget the night Jesse Campbell lit up the gym. If you check the record board today, you'll still see his name all over it—he practically owns every stat worth having. He was a two-time high school All-American, and lucky me, I had the privilege of sharing the varsity court with him

One night against Perry, Jesse had 35 points by halftime. Coach Hora looked at us and said, "Let's get Jesse the record." From then on, our only job was to pass him the ball—any way, every way. By the final buzzer, Jesse had 65 points, a record that's stood for nearly fifty years.

It was a night of pure joy, pride, and a little bit of awe. For me, just being on the court, part of that moment, was something I'll never forget. Jesse didn't just set records; he gave the rest of us one heck of a story to tell for the rest of our lives.

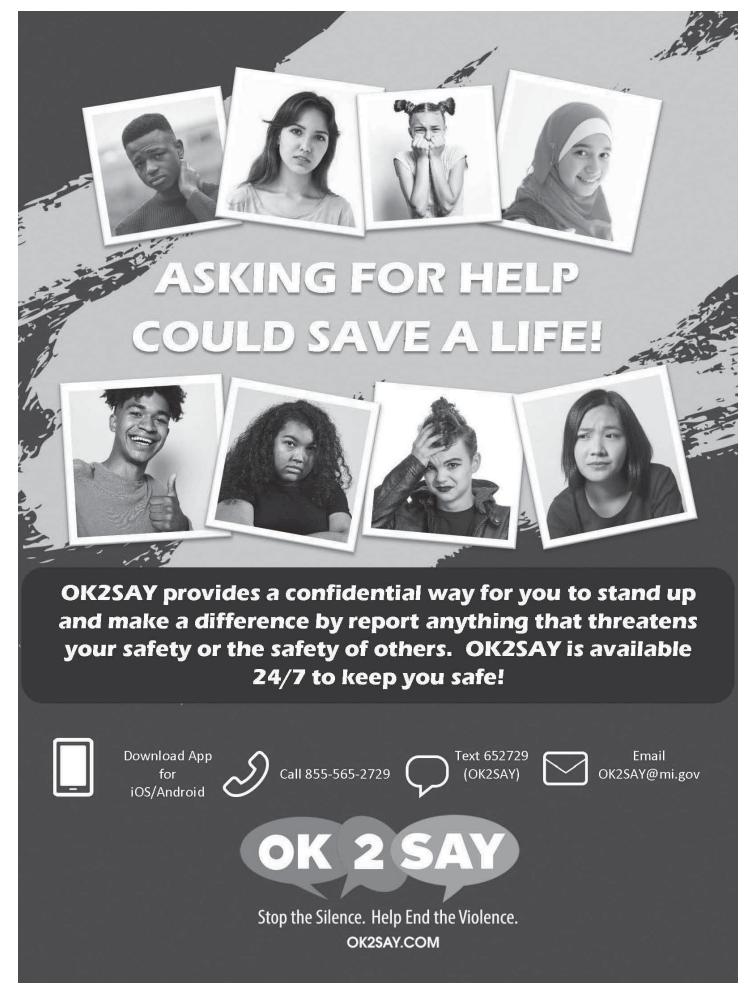
If you—or someone you know—have accomplishments, milestones, or memories to share, send them our way!

Let's celebrate the people who make this community great!
Submit your info and photos today! We're looking for alumni stories and pictures to feature throughout the year in the newsletter, because every one of you is part of this community's story.

Send us your updates and snapshots — let's laugh, celebrate, and stay connected...one spotlight at a time.

SUBMIT TO... w.rosedesigns2000@ gmail.com







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Regular meetings of the Board of Education will be held as posted each month at 6:30 pm at the Junior/Senior High School Student Success Center, 416 N. Clinton, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

All regular meetings are open to the public.

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