

August 2024

TROJAN TIMES



Central Lake Public Schools

MISSION: Central Lake Public Schools exists to educate students, strengthen families, and enrich our community.

From the Superintendent



Dear Central Lake Public Schools Students & Families,

As the summer days wind down and the excitement for a new school year begins to build, I want to extend a warm welcome to every one of you.

Whether you're a returning student or a new face in our halls, I am thrilled to embark on this journey of learning, growth, and discovery together.

At Central Lake Public Schools, our mission is to provide a top-notch education and foster community, compassion, and curiosity among our students. As your Superintendent, I am committed to ensuring every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.

To our returning students, welcome back! Your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication are not just a part of our school; you are the heart and soul of it. I can't wait to see all you will accomplish in the coming year, and I am confident your contributions will continue shaping our vibrant community.

To our new students and families, welcome to the Central Lake family! We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant community, and we look forward to getting to know you and helping you feel right at home.

As we embark on this new school year, I encourage you to approach every day with an open mind, a positive attitude, and a willingness to embrace new challenges. Together, we will create a supportive and nurturing environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

I assure you that our students and staff's health and safety remain our top priority. We will continue to follow the latest guidance from health officials to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment for all.

As we prepare to kick off the new school year, let's remember to approach each day with kindness, empathy, and a commitment to excellence. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Thank you for entrusting your education to us. I am excited to embark on this journey with you and look forward to a year filled with growth, learning, and endless possibilities. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

Warm regards,

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham
Superintendent of Schools

Schools of choice: Choose CLPS!

Central Lake Public Schools is now accepting applications for School-of-Choice students. We have several openings in multiple grades. To make CLPS your school of choice, contact Tiffany Truscott at truscott@centrallake.org!



Important Central Lake Contacts

Secretary to the Superintendent: (231) 544-3141 ext. 54334

Elementary School: (231) 544-3141 ext. 54300

Middle/High School: (231) 544-3141 ext. 54200

Find all district information at our NEW web address:

www.centrallake.org

Fall Calendar 2024-25

Open houses, picnic for 0-8

All pre-K-12th grade families are invited to open houses on Aug. 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Families with kids 0-8 are invited to a picnic at Thurston Park on Aug. 13, 4:30-7 p.m. hosted by CLEO!

2024

Aug 26 First day of school, 1/2 day

Aug 27-29 Full days of school

Aug 30-Sept 2 No school

Sept 3 School resumes, full day

Oct 24 1/2 day, Parent-Teacher Conf.

Oct. 25 No school, Prof. Development

Nov 1 No school, Prof. Development

Nov 27 1/2 day

Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving Break

Dec 23-Jan 3 Winter Break

2025

Jan 23 1/2 day, Parent-Teacher Conf.

Jan 24 No school, Prof. Development

Feb 17 Mid-winter break, no school

Mar 21-31 Spring Break

May 26 Memorial Day

June 5 Last day of school, 1/2 day

Daily Schedule

Full Day:

7:55a.m.-3:00 p.m. MS/HS

8:00 a.m.-3:05 p.m. Elementary

Half Day:

7:55-11:25 a.m. MS/HS

8:00-11:30 a.m. Elementary



Welcome, new Central Lake staff members!



ASHLEY CARY, Lead GSRP Teacher, CLPS Early Childhood Programs

I am excited and grateful to accept the position as Central Lake's new GSRP Lead Teacher. I graduated from Northwestern Michigan College this past May '24 with my Teacher Care and Curriculum Certification. I previously served 3 years with AmeriCorps and Michigan Education Corps as a Reading Interventionist and Early Learning Coordinator. I am looking forward to joining the Central Lake PreK program. This has been a career change for me and I couldn't be more excited. I am excited for the classes to come, celebrating their growth, creating new experiences, and gaining relationships within the community and families. I am a morning person who enjoys the peace and quiet before the day begins. I enjoy hiking, pickleball, and spending time with my family. When I want to escape and relax I do so with baking, reading, and sometimes a little video gaming.



STEPHANIE STEDMAN, Director of Early Childhood

I am delighted to introduce myself as your new Early Childhood Program Director. I come to you with several years of experience in the early childhood world including the Great Start Readiness Program, Head Start, and School-Based Mental Health. I have spent more than 1/3 of my life working alongside early educators, families, and communities and feel eager to embark on this journey with each of you.

Having dedicated my career to nurturing young minds, it is my belief that building a strong foundation during these first formative years of life can shape a child's future in profound ways. With this philosophy at heart, I am committed to ensuring that our early education programs not only meet but exceed the expectations of our families and community. As we approach the upcoming school year, I am filled with anticipation for the opportunities that lie ahead and am confident that we will continue to create an environment where every child feels safe, valued, and inspired to learn. Collaboration with parents and guardians is integral to our success, and I look forward to forging strong partnerships based on open communication and shared goals.

Please know that my door is always open, and your thoughts, ideas, and feedback are always welcome. I look forward to celebrating milestones, overcoming challenges, and celebrating the joy of childhood learning here at Central Lake Public Schools.



SARA TAUSCH, Student Success Coordinator, Special Education Supervisor

I am excited to join the Central Lake Public Schools family! I hold a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Saginaw Valley State University. My certifications include Michigan Administrator, Elementary Education, and Early Childhood Special Education. Previously, I have worked as a special education teacher, director of early childhood, and middle school behavior specialist. I love traveling, new experiences, hiking, and being by the water. My family, including my two puppies Blanton Rapids and Pudge, and I are thrilled to be starting a new chapter in Northern Michigan. I look forward to collaborating with staff, students, and parents to create a thriving and supportive school environment.



BROOKE WILKS, Elementary School Secretary

I was born in Central Lake and am excited to return "home" after growing up out west. After high school I realized my passion for working with children. I attended college in Idaho, then began my early childhood education career working at an accredited preschool in Moscow, Idaho. Though I did not graduate from Washington State, I was a huge Cougar football fan and went to every game for years. While in the Pacific Northwest, I enjoyed hiking, fishing, white water rafting, and visiting Pike Place Market in Seattle. My husband and I moved to Michigan last summer and we are finding a whole new life style to enjoy. We appreciate what northern Michigan has to offer and have been busy sightseeing, visiting state parks, and helping on my parent's farm. You're sure to see us attending Trojan sporting events this year. I am excited to be the new elementary secretary and get to know your families and this wonderful community that we call home.



ROB HEEKE Part-time Math Teacher

Rob Heeke, a legendary teacher and coach, is returning as a part-time math teacher. With a plethora of experience in both teaching and coaching, Mr. Heeke brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to his role. Mr. Heeke is no stranger to Central Lake Public Schools, having previously served as a beloved teacher and coach. His years of experience and dedication to student success have earned him a reputation as a mentor and leader in our school district.

Beyond his role in the classroom, Mr. Heeke is known for his leadership as a coach, guiding student-athletes to success both on and off the field, including the 2017 State Championship in 8-man football. The school community, which has long admired his commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching learning environment, is enthusiastic about his return.

DISTRICT NEWS & UPDATES

Learn about CLEO and join our picnic for 0-8 on Aug. 13!

Central Lake Early Opportunities - CLEO - is a group of partners that offers many different programs for families with young children. Some examples include:



- Infant, toddler, and preschool programs at CLPS.
- Parent gatherings.
- Playgroups for caregivers and children ages 0-5 every week.
- Visits to encourage, support, and celebrate parents and kids.
- Monthly diaper pick-up and activity bags.
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library

To learn more, visit centrallakecleo.org or reach out to Kate Essenberg, CLEO Director, at (231) 675-7937 or cessenberg@cisnwmi.org.

PICNIC DETAILS:

Families with children ages 0-8, join us for the annual CLEO picnic!

When: Tuesday, Aug. 13, 4:30-7 p.m.

Where: Thurston Park

What: Fun and free dinner for children ages 0-8 and families.



Please register for the picnic!

Scan the QR code or text or call Kate at (231) 675-7937.

Central Lake pursues Safety & Security grant

Central Lake Public Schools (CLPS) recently applied for the SVPP (School Violence Prevention Program) Safety and Security Grant to enhance safety measures across its district. This grant application, spearheaded by a dedicated team including Dr. Ryan Cunningham, Mary Spyhalski, Tiffany Truscott, Lisa Krosnicki, and Tom Persons, outlines ambitious plans for security upgrades. Additionally, many local and state authorities and agencies supported that grant initiative with letters of support.

If awarded, the grant is anticipated to total \$625,000, with CLPS providing a 25% match. These funds will support comprehensive improvements such as installing cameras throughout the district, enhancing secured access points, and implementing advanced detection technologies for substances and sound anomalies.

Dr. Ryan Cunningham, Superintendent of Central Lake Public Schools, expressed optimism about the grant's potential impact: "This initiative represents a significant step forward in bolstering the safety and security protocols within our schools. The support from SVPP would allow us to implement crucial upgrades that will ensure a safer environment for our students, staff, and visitors." The district eagerly awaits the decision, expected by Nov. 1, to determine if they will receive this critical funding.

New domain name for CLPS: centrallake.org

Central Lake Public Schools has transitioned from our previous website address (clps.k12.mi.us) to centrallake.org. This change reflects our commitment to better serving our students, staff, and community by enhancing our online presence and communication channels.

The centrallake.org domain will streamline access to information about our district, including news updates, academic resources, and contact information for our schools and administration. It aligns with our mission to provide all stakeholders with a modern, user-friendly experience.

2025 bond consideration

Central Lake Public Schools is preparing to pursue a bond in 2025 to address significant district needs while minimizing impact on the community. The district has actively worked to refine the bond proposal, removing non-essential items and leveraging grant opportunities to secure additional funding. More details on the bond's scope and community impact will be released soon.

Submit nominations for Athletic Hall of Fame

Central Lake Public Schools is accepting nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame. Nominations may be made for individuals, teams, or others who have significantly contributed to the CLPS athletic community. **The deadline for this year's submissions is Aug. 15.** Send nominations to Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Superintendent, at 8169 W. State St., P.O. Box 128, Central Lake, MI, 49622, or by email to rcunningham@centrallake.org.

Email Cunningham or call (231) 544-3141 for complete criteria and submission format.

Fall golf outing to benefit the Central Lake Sports Boosters on Sept. 15, 2024

The Central Lake Sports Boosters will host a golf outing to benefit CLPS athletics on Sept. 15, 2025. 10 a.m. shotgun start at the Bellaire Centennial Golf Club. Cost is \$75 per player or \$300 per foursome. Dinner and awards. For more information or to register, contact Suzi McGuire at (231) 350-1509 or email duffnsuzi@gmail.com. **Register by Sept. 1.**

Communities and Schools coordinator hired

Central Lake Public Schools is partnering with Communities and Schools of Northwest Michigan. Jessica Newton has been hired as the Site Coordinator for Central Lake Elementary School. Jessica will work directly with elementary students and their families to remove roadblocks and provide the resources they need to achieve in school and life. Jessica will work with individual students and small groups, collaborate with agencies for family resources, and host family engagement nights throughout the year.



ELEMENTARY, EARLY CHILDHOOD, COUNSELORS

From the Elementary Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at Central Lake Elementary School! I write this note with great excitement and anticipation. Our dedicated staff and I are committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment where every child can learn and thrive.

As we embark on this new academic journey together, I urge you to play an active role in your child's education. Your involvement is not just important; it's crucial. Communication between home and school is vital, and we are here to support your child's growth and development every step of the way.

This year, we plan to enhance our curriculum and extracurricular activities to ensure a well-rounded educational experience for all students. We will continue to prioritize academic excellence, character development, and social-emotional learning. Please take note of important dates and events in our school calendar, including parent-teacher conferences, school assemblies, and community outreach programs. Your participation and support contribute significantly to the success of our school community.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me or our dedicated staff members. Together, we can make this school year a memorable and rewarding experience for our students. Thank you for choosing Central Lake Elementary School for your child's education. We are honored by your trust and look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Dr. Ryan L. Cunningham, Elementary Principal
rcunningham@centrallake.org

Little Trojans Early Childhood Program

We have been busy running our summer programming and preparing for the school year! Little Trojans Early Childhood Programs is a tight-knit community dedicated to providing play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum, embedded professional development, and qualified early childhood educators. Through partnerships and funding from the CLEO Purdy Endowment Fund, Head Start, and the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), we offer tuition-based Infant and Toddler tuition-free preschool-aged programming.

Our classrooms closely follow the CLPS district calendar and build in time off for holiday breaks, inclement weather days, and dedicated professional development days for staff. However, there are some deviations from the actual school calendar, so please pay close attention to the differences.

Please contact me, Stephanie Stedman, with any questions at sstedman@centrallake.org or (231) 544-3141 ext. 54330.

Welcome back! From the K-12 Counselors

The 2024-25 school year is right around the corner, and we look forward to another wonderful year! We are excited to provide some updates to our K-12 Counseling program. We currently have Kris Hoeksema, Mental Health Professional through the Health Department of NW Michigan (6th-12th Grade), and Jackie Wakelend, Elementary School Counselor (Kindergarten through 5th Grade). Mrs. Hoeksema will continue supporting middle/high school students through individual and group counseling while leading the "Bring Change to Mind Club." The MSHS counseling office will continue to house the pantry with food, clothing, and school supplies.

I am thrilled to introduce two new members to our team, Jessica Newton and Shana Wojtowicz. Jessica is employed through Communities in Schools of NW Michigan. Jessica will be based out of the elementary school full-time and will support our students in various ways: small groups, individual students, resources for families, and family engagement nights. Shana owns "Rooted in Wellness Counseling" and supports students part-time in middle/high school.

Central Lake Public Schools is fortunate and unlike many others in the area when comparing our support (social, emotional, behavioral) and resources to those of other schools in the area. We currently have three full-time staff members and two part-time staff members whose roles are to support students and work with families to access and provide resources. As a team, we will collaborate to make a positive impact on our students' well-being and support families at the same time.

Mrs. Mary Spyhalski
mspyhalski@centrallake.org • (231) 544-3141 ext. 54220

From the Special Education Supervisor

Welcome back to school! As your Special Education Supervisor, I'm thrilled to embark on another enriching journey with each of you. This year promises discoveries, growth, and achievements. Our special education team is fully in tact, and we welcome back our four staff members: Amy Peck and Alexis Couturier at the elementary level and Lisa Hoogerhyde and Erin Rees at the secondary level.

Communication, collaboration, and engagement are paramount to the success of our special needs population. We look forward to serving our students and community for the upcoming school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your teacher, provider, or me: Sara Tausch: sstauch@centrallake.org (231) 544-3141 ext. 54335

School picture day is Aug. 27!

Smile! K-12 student Picture Day will be
Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.



Welcome back, middle and high school students!

As I begin my third year at Central Lake Public Schools, my focus will be on the 6-12 building and athletics. I will continue to support all the important work that happens to prepare our students to succeed in the future. Looking back at

my over 20+ years of experience in education, I believe it all comes down to the ABCs.

I will focus more on **A-ttendance**, the critical first step toward success in school and any life endeavor. The first step is showing up. The good stuff happens at school in the classrooms. Students away from school struggle to keep up with daily work, leading to passing grades. I will track student **B-ehavior** and work with students to ensure they build positive relationships within our school community. When students are intentional about these two essential pillars of education, it greatly increases their chance of earning **C-redit**, the third pillar. Central Lake students who master these essential skills will be ready to succeed in college, in their careers, and in life.

Please email or phone me with any questions or concerns. In my first two years working in the district, I have truly enjoyed getting to know the parents and community of Central Lake.

Mr. Larry Rager

lrager@centrallake.org • (231) 544-3141 ext. 54201

Middle School electives, Spanish online

- **Middle school elective rotations** are returning for another year! Students will rotate between Art, Natural Resources/STEM, and online Spanish. Title services will be available for targeted middle students needing additional support in language arts. Students will rotate monthly to increase exposure and opportunities for projects and experiences.

- **Spanish:** At Central Lake Public Schools, we will offer Spanish 1 online through Duolingo. The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires students to complete two credits of a world language for graduation, one credit of world language, and one credit of an additional applied arts credit and/or career technical education course.

Students will have a dedicated hour (5th hour) to complete all assignments. Mrs. Spyhalski will be the teacher of record and will assist in getting students set up online, grading, and available to tutor. This course will be self-paced, with students having a pacing guide to follow with expectations of deadlines to meet each semester. The course content is integrated through Google Classroom, and Duolingo is the online platform students use to access the material.

From the Athletic Director

I am excited to continue as the Athletic Director, as sports have always been a passion of mine. I have over 20 years of coaching experience across all levels, from elementary-age students to varsity. I am thankful to be able to continue coaching as part of my school responsibilities as the varsity golf coach.

I will draw on my experience as an athlete, coach, spectator, and administrator to build programs at Central Lake that the school and community can be proud of. There is a rich history of success by Trojan teams and individual athletes spanning decades! Central Lake is a passionate community that supports athletic pursuits. Our coaches share this passion and will prepare our athletes to be their best. Central Lake athletes will compete at their highest level possible with class and respect for the school and community that they represent and towards their opponents and officials.

I hope to see as many of you supporting our athletes at competitions as possible. Family passes will again be available for \$150. They may be purchased at either building from the secretary, the concession stand, or the ticket seller at the games. Senior passes are also available and will be recognized by other Ski Valley schools for persons 60+ years of age.

Mr. Larry Rager

lrager@centrallake.org • (231) 544-3141 ext. 54201

Academic support for MS/HS students

For the second year in a row, middle and high school students will now have access to a tutor for academic support and an additional hour of academic support for high school students. Mr. Tyler Hart is returning to support students' academic needs. He will be available to work with students during middle and high school lunch periods beyond the regular school day while supporting classroom instruction. 6th-hour academic support will be available for high school students who are failing courses, need additional time to complete assignments from absences, or need additional support for coursework.

Jobs for Michigan's Graduates partnership

CLPS is partnering with Char-Em ISD Career and Technical Education Department and Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) through Northwest Michigan Works to support student learning and work experiences in and beyond traditional classroom doors. This collaboration provides youth with skills to overcome barriers while supporting them in achieving education and career goals. Josh Todd is returning to support CLPS students through classroom instruction, individual and small groups, weekly meetings, and field trips. In addition, he works directly with the Senior Capstone class to support post-graduation planning. For more information, please contact Mr. Todd at josh.todd@networksnorthwest.org.

Central Lake Public Schools
8169 West State Street
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www.centrallake.org



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TROJAN TIMES

August 2024

Central Lake Public Schools fall athletics

Go Trojans!

For more information, check out our school website centrallake.org for additional dates and times of fall sports.

Mr. Larry Rager, lrager@centrallake.org

First home games 2024-25

Football

Varsity: 09/12 - Inland Lakes, 7 p.m.

MS: 09/18 - Inland Lakes, 6 p.m.

Special dates to note:

Varsity Football: 10/04 - Veterans' Recognition Game vs. Onekema, 7 p.m.

Varsity Football: 10/11 - Homecoming Game vs. Onaway, 7 p.m.

All students: 10/12 - Homecoming Dance

Varsity Football: 10/25 - Senior Night vs. Forest Area, 7 p.m.

Go, Trojans!

Volleyball

Varsity/JV: 09/05 - Grand Traverse Academy, 6 p.m.

MS: 09/16 - Pellston, 6 p.m.

Varsity: 10/28 - Senior Night vs. Boyne Falls, 6 p.m.

Food Service Department: Breakfast update

We would like to welcome Nicole Hutchins as the Food Service Director. Ms. Hutchins assumed these responsibilities during the 2023-24 school year and has done an excellent job with Food Service. Breakfast for all grades 6-12 MS/HS students will be served in the cafeteria. All MS/HS students will enter the building at the gymnasium doors beginning at 7:30 a.m. Any student arriving after the first bell can access a "grab and go" breakfast bag.

For any questions related to food service, contact Nicole Hutchins at (231) 544-3141 ext. 54206, or nhutchins@centrallake.org.

Trojan Wellness Center (TWC) updates

The Trojan Wellness Center received additional funding to staff a full-time nurse at Central Lake Public Schools! Previously, Jamie Klooster filled the position of a part-time nurse shared with Ellsworth Community Schools. This unique position will collaborate with a mental health professional, creating a team approach to addressing physical and mental health needs within the school setting. The position is posted, and we are looking to fill it as soon as possible.

Kris Hoeksema is returning to lead the Trojan Wellness Center as the school-based mental health professional. She continues to meet with students individually and in small groups and leads the "Bring Change to Mind" student organization. If you have any questions about getting your child to see her, please feel free to email her at k.hoeksema@nwhealth.org.

Building and Grounds department projects

The Maintenance Department has been hard at work this summer cleaning and refreshing the buildings. We received a grant from Central Lake Hardware and True Value for 20 gallons of paint and supplies. The paint was used in a few MS/HS classrooms as well as the gym and locker rooms. We have also temporarily stopped the leaks in the gym roof until structural engineers can review the entire scope of the gym project. Additionally, the doors at the Athletic Entrance have been replaced.

From the Transportation Department

We are excited to have our two regular route bus drivers, Mrs. Deanna and Mr. Jim, back this fall. They will drive the same routes as the previous school year. Pick up and drop off times should be the same, with some minor adjustments due to graduating seniors and new student enrollments. Ms. Amanda Teal, Transportation Secretary, will be contacting families to confirm pick-up and drop-off times. We are still seeking a few part-time bus drivers to help us cover sports runs as well as our two regular bus routes as needed.

Please contact Ms. Teal at (231) 544-3141, ext. 54300, or ateal@centrallake.org with any clarifying questions.

CENTRAL LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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