

# INSIDE

White  
Cloud  
Schools

White Cloud Public Schools Newsletter • February 2021

## A New Year... and Some Things Haven't Changed



*By Ed Canning, Superintendent*

As we rolled our calendars forward to 2021, many of the school district's operating procedures related to COVID-19 were forced to remain the same.

For example, we are continuing to navigate our way through best practices associated with COVID-19 as they evolve.

I cannot emphasize enough how vital it is to do proper handwashing, to use hand sanitizer frequently, and, certainly, to stay home when you or your children are sick.

I also want to say thank you to all of our staff for their truly heroic efforts during this unprecedented time in education. These past 10 months have been enormously challenging, and will continue for the foreseeable future as our country works to get ahead of this pandemic.

Our staff has worked extremely hard to address our students' social, emotional, and educational needs. We have seen first-hand the importance of in-person instruction and the positive effects it has, even as we recognize a significant decline in academic performance for students who are attending classes remotely.

To address this challenge, staff is providing times and opportunities for students or families to utilize the student learning supports we offer, such as internet accessibility and tutoring.

### Bond Projects Moving Ahead

The school district is in the process of Phase II projects funded by the 2016 bond issue. These include updating technology district-wide, new elementary and 6-12 cafeteria roofs, demolition of the old elementary, new high school gym bleachers, and some lighting improvements.

To help all of us stay in touch, please continue to follow us on Facebook and visit our website. Parents should continue to utilize our Skyward emailing system. We want to do all we can

to share our communications, updates, and celebrations through these links.

In closing, my sincere thank you, White Cloud community, for your continued support of your schools and for demonstrating WC PRIDE each and every day! ■

## Just...WOW!



*Tyler Washburn,  
Kyle Scott, Trace Scarlavai*

Congratulations to White Cloud graduate Tyler Washburn, who recently finished **7th in the world** at the Ultimate Bull Fighters (UBF) competition finals held December 31-January 2. Great job, Tyler!

Current White Cloud Junior High students, Trace Scarlavai and Kyle Scott, also are excelling in rodeo competitions.

Trace was ranked 12th in the world in the Senior Mini division, while Kyle was ranked 24th in the world in the Junior Mini Division.

Excellent examples of WC PRIDE! ■

# INSIDE

White Cloud Public Schools Newsletter

Providing you with important  
information about your schools.

Address comments and suggestions to:

Ed Canning, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 1000  
555 Wilcox Avenue  
White Cloud, MI 49349  
Phone 689-6591

## Board of Education

President - James Jones  
Vice President - Harry Stevens  
Secretary - Elaine Engel  
Treasurer - Mindy Mench

## Trustees

Holly Bowman  
Megan Cruzan  
Keith Derks

## Administration:

### Superintendent

Ed Canning

### 6-12 Principal

Brent Foondle

### Elementary Principal

Lorie Watson

---

The Board of Education meets the  
third Monday of each month in the  
HS Collaboration Room 306.  
Meetings are open to the public,  
and begin at 7:30 pm.

---

Community education offers  
continuous enrollment in high school  
completion and GED preparation.  
Day and evening classes are available.  
Childcare is available. For more details  
call 652-4000.



## Class of 2021 High Honors and Honors

### High Honors – Gold Cord

Janessa M. Shepard – 4.262 - Valedictorian  
Kathryn Fiala – 4.179 - Salutatorian  
Cassandra L. Watson – 4.177  
Lydia F. Geigle – 4.020  
Parker J. Karnes - 3.911

### Honors – Silver Cord

Alexis F. Wenger – 3.741  
Naomi L. Thompson – 3.726  
Alexus L. Richmond – 3.586  
Alexis Strait – 3.502



## WANTED: Substitute Bus Drivers

White Cloud Public Schools are currently seeking individuals interested  
in becoming substitute bus drivers. Commercial driver's license, DOT  
physical, and Bus Driver Continuing Education are required. If you do  
not already hold all of these credentials, training will be provided.

If you are interested in applying for this important safety-cautious  
position, please pick up an application at the administrative office or  
send a letter of interest to:

Lisa Mathews, Transportation Supervisor  
555 Wilcox Ave. • P.O. Box 1000  
White Cloud, MI 49349

# Thank You for Trust During Challenging Times

*Lorie Watson*

*Principal, White Cloud Elementary*

White Cloud Elementary has been so fortunate to have our students here with us all year!

The joy and happiness I see in the over 400 students as they come in the door every morning is such a gift! They are excited to see their friends and to be in the classroom learning with their classmates.

Thank you, parents, for entrusting us with your children during a year full of decisions and new, unique opportunities.

Overall, our students and staff have also remained quite healthy. I would like to thank our students and staff for being so terrific in following all of our different health rules this year, our parents and community for the support and kindness shown to staff and for following our new health guidelines, and our custodial team who have effectively kept up with extensive cleaning throughout the school day and into the evening.

Parents have been very gracious and understanding this year regarding our health guidelines, and I appreciate and thank you for that very much.

I look forward to doing our extra events again in the hopefully near future that connect all of our students, families, and staff, such as our assemblies, parent nights, fun days, field trips, and awards assemblies.

Life here is about learning but also about enjoying life, sharing fun experiences, and making connections that help show everyone is an important part of our school. ■

We inspire  
**DREAMS**

---

## Warm Coats for Winter

White Cloud Elementary has been so fortunate to have its partnership of kindness with the Knights of Columbus #13939 for more than a decade.

Each year, the Knights of Columbus donates brand new winter coats for our elementary students.

Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for your giving hearts! ■



*Elementary students model new winter coats: Barton Ritter, left, Brooklyn Cook, Lilliayn Burgess, Caleb Haltom, Madison Peets, Mason Koch, and Lon Rauch.*



# Students Pitch In to Keep Elementary Library Running

This is a big shout out to the 4th and 5th graders who have been interacting with the Jack D. Jones Elementary Library!

Since our beloved library consultant, Mrs. Broome, was unable to be in the library this year, students have been volunteering to fill the void.

Fourth and fifth graders have helped by organizing and shelving books, recommending new topics and titles to put into circulation, and volunteering to do monthly interactive read-alouds to kindergarten and 1st grade students.

In December, the elementary had its first "For the Love of BOOKs" drawing.

Students created wish lists, and then books were drawn from a lottery to be purchased for our library.

The books are labeled: IN HONOR OF (requester) and placed on the shelves for checkout. We hope to have a quarterly drawing!

Special thanks to kindergarten teachers Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Karnes and Mrs. Strait; 1st grade teachers Mrs. Cruzan, Mrs. Dawson and Ms. Wilson; 4th grade teacher Ms. Fritz; and 5th grade teachers Mrs. Foondle, Mrs. Dakin, Mrs. D'Lamater and Mrs. Riddering for improvising and providing a wonderful literacy experience for our students. ■



*Above: Brynlee Plouff, Addison Boomgaard and Aubri Vincent work on shelving and organizing books.*



*Left: Drawing winners are Kaden Zatalokin, Macie Dykstra, Payton Plotts, Brian Loveless and Amayah Canavan.*



## Children Honor School Staff

Children from the New Life Assembly of God Church in White Cloud recently presented all staff of White Cloud Elementary with a heartfelt card, written by the children, and bottles of lotion.

Their kind efforts were part of their Serving our Community ministry.

White Cloud Elementary staff would like to thank these children for the many smiles they brought to our hearts! ■

*Marina Garber, Micah Garber, Ethan Boysen, Cynthia Boysen, Natalie Compeau, Blake Compeau, and Mrs. Watson*



# Community Says So Long to a Little Piece of History

A once-vibrant, visible piece of White Cloud's history is gone.

The recent demolition of the former Jack D. Jones Elementary School was needed because the building had become a safety hazard since it was closed in 2013, said Supt. Ed Canning.

A White Cloud native, Canning has fond memories of the teachers and friends he made as he grew up and attended classes in the school on the hill.

"A lot of people in our community attended classes or were part of the staff in that building," Canning said. "Many of us have a real emotional attachment to it."

Constructed in the 1950s to serve a community experiencing steady growth in the years following World War II, the school eventually was named to honor Jack D. Jones, a long-time local educational leader and school district superintendent.

But by 2020 it had become plain that it was time to say a final goodbye, Canning said. The building suffered from vandalism and weather damage in the years after it was shuttered due to rising maintenance costs and declining enrollment.

The school board gave the go-ahead for demolition last summer. Jim Jones, the board's long-time president and the son of Jack D. Jones, fully agreed with the decision.

"It was just time," Jim Jones said. "The community saw a lot of good come through that school, and it was just tarnishing those memories to just watch the building slowly decay."

By mid-January 2021 demotion was complete, with work crews focusing on removing metal and other debris and digging up the foundation. Drivers-by will eventually see a leveled field.

Canning said nothing has yet been decided for what might come after. One vision, he said, is to turn the area into an athletic complex for baseball, softball, a practice football field, and revitalized tennis courts.

The school board has made certain that the honored name of Jack D Jones is not forgotten.

The original lettering for Mr. Jones' name, and the dedication plaque, has been transferred to the current elementary building, to grace the Jack D. Jones Elementary Library.

And long-time White Cloud residents will continue to share their memories of the place where they made friends, learned, played, and grew up. ■



# Junior/Senior High Honor Roll

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

ARSYN J. BALKE  
KALEIGH H. BLEILER  
LILLEE A. BROWN  
\*NINA M. CAPALLIA-BIRD  
JACOB J. CHILES  
\*LANDON V. EDWARDS  
\*JAMES R. ELLIOTT  
BENJAMIN M. FEHRLIN  
ANGELO L. HINSON  
KACIE L. KAILING  
QUINCY J. KING  
DESIRAE C. KLINGBEIL  
\*DAMIAN M. MAYLE  
SHELBY J. MCKINNON  
SHANE H.  
MICKLATCHER  
TEHYAH C. NICKOLOFF  
CAMERON A. RAGON  
ZACHARY R. RAUSCH  
CHRISTIAN A.  
SHERWOOD  
KATELYNN L. THORNE  
RHOEN D. WADE  
NICKOLAS A. WIBLE  
MIKEL A. WILSON  
KYLIE J. ZIMMER  
STEVEN A. ZOOK

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

HOPE P. BELL  
PAYTEN E. BIRD  
BLAKE R. BORGMAN  
\*GABRIELLA E. DAKIN  
MOLLY M. FRANCIS  
RILIE M. HEETHER  
REECE J. HEWITT  
TRINITY J. IRWIN  
\*CHARLOTTE R.  
KARNES  
DOMINIC J. MCDONALD  
ALEXIS V. MEDINA  
ALFREDO A. MEDINA  
VINCENT B. SAVILLE  
CORLEY A. SCOTT  
KALEB A. THORN  
JAMES J. VISSER  
ZANDER R. WIGNER

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

KEIRA L. BAKER  
AVERY M. BOWMAN  
KALEB J. CANNING  
\*COLESON R. CRUZAN  
HANNAH J. CRUZAN  
AALIYAH A. EATON  
MARIAH M. EDWARDS  
\*BROOKLYN K.  
FOONDLE  
TAYLOR J. HANEY  
\*EMILY L. HEDLUND  
DAVID W. HIGGS  
TRENTON J. HITS  
REECE P. JOHNSON  
WYATT E. KARNES  
TYLER M. PARROTT  
JAYDEN R. ROBINSON  
SYDNEY J. SAULIS  
TRACE M. SCARLAVAI  
GABRIELLE T. SCHULTZ  
CHARLEIGH L. SCOTT  
JACOB R. ZIMMER

## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RYLEIGH J. BALKE  
MASON S. CRUZAN  
ALEYIAH D. DESNOYERS  
ANDREA J. FELDPAUSCH  
CARSON J. FOONDLE  
BRYCE W. HALTOM  
GRACY L. HOLMES  
SAMANTHA J. KUKAL  
ALYSSA P. MICHAELIS  
ANNA G. MOHR  
BROOKE M. RINGLER  
ALEXANDRIA M. RODRIGUEZ  
JAYSON R. RUETHER  
OLIVIA C. SHULL  
KEVIN P. STRAIT JR  
JARED T. WATSON

## 10 GRADE

DANELLE L. CROCKETT  
ALEX R. CRUZAN  
JOLENA M. DEATON  
GREGORY K. EDMAISTON II  
KIARA D. EDWARDS  
WILLIAM E. FEHRLIN III  
DOMINIC E. FRISBIE  
MALACHI A. GRAVES  
LILLIAN J. HOLMES  
SIDNEY J. HYRNS  
LILLIE R. KEITH  
ZANE F. KEITH  
VANESSA L. KENNY  
TRISTAN A. MCHANEY  
ELISE A. PROCTOR  
GABRIELA C. REEVE  
GRACE A. RICHARDS  
CHRISTIAN J. RINGLER  
MASON L. RUETHER  
JACE A. SILVERTHORN

## 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

AVERY J. ACOSTA  
KYLEAH R. BAKER  
ANGELIQUE R. BELL  
CEARA L. BODE  
JOEL S. BRADLEY  
KOBÉ N. CANNING  
ERIC W. DOYLE JR  
JOSHUA S. EISING  
KRYSTIANNA M.  
FALTINOWSKI  
CHRISTIAN T. FIALA  
ALEEYA J. GRIFFORD  
BRUCE A. GRVELES  
CARLY R. HEDLUND  
AYDEN D. KAILING  
SOPHIE A. KEHR  
ETHAN G. KRUL  
COURTNEY S. LA CLAIR  
IRIS E. MALMBERG  
THADDEUS J. MCDONALD  
MYAH E. MENCH  
CECELIA E. MILLER-  
RODRIGUEZ  
MASON J. MORRIS  
NIKOLAS A. PARKS  
JOSEPHSON  
TAYLOR L. PASCH  
VALERIE N. SAVILLE  
CARSYN M. SCARLAVAI  
KENDYLL S. THORN  
KAYLEE A. WALLS

## 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

ALYSSA R. BRIDGES  
ADAM M. BULK  
KARA E. DAVIS  
ALEX J. ELDER  
ALLISON J. EMPIE  
DAMON T. EYESTONE  
TARRENCE D. FERRIBY  
KATHRYN E. FIALA  
LYDIA F. GEIGLE  
ANDREA R. GINGERICH  
ZACHARY A. GROVE  
RYLEE K. HEWITT  
PARKER J. KARNES  
AALIYAH D. KLAMMER  
ALEXUS L. RICHMOND  
MACKENZIE Y. SHANTY  
JANESSA M. SHEPARD  
ALEXIS STRAIT  
SELENA M. STUBBLEFIELD  
AMBER N. THOMPSON  
NAOMI L. THOMPSON  
SAMUEL J. VENEMA  
CASSANDRA L. WATSON  
ALEXIS F. WENGER

**Congrats!**



# Quiz Bowl Team Resumes Competition

Last season, White Cloud's nationally ranked quiz bowl squad qualified to the State Finals for the 31st year, a record in Michigan for Class C-D high schools, and also advanced to the National Championships for the 23rd time.

Only Class A Detroit Catholic Central and Class B Detroit Country Day have qualified to their respective State Finals more, 33 times each.

Last year, as 11th graders, the dynamic duo of Parker Karnes and Janessa Shepard were selected by the NAQT national committee to represent the United States at a separate Individuals' National Championship.

The coronavirus forced the termination of all three events, including this season's Jan Rademacher Memorial Quiz Bowl Invitational at White Cloud High School.

After a 7-month hiatus, the Indians returned to their winning ways at the 12-team Fulton Invitational, run virtually on October 17 by Fulton High School and one of Ohio's executive directors.

White Cloud's Varsity A quartet of senior co-captains Parker Karnes and Janessa Shepard, with returning lettermen and national qualifiers junior Anthony Solis-Victoria and sophomore Malachi Graves, tallied 2,490 points in eight matches and a 5-3 record. Chelsea High School won the tournament with an 8-0 record.



*Parker Karnes*



Senior co-captains Karnes and Shepard paced the Indians' attack. Karnes was awarded the Brian Derks Trophy for being White Cloud's premier scorer. He was the 4th leading scorer in the star-studded tournament that featured four candidates for 2020-2021 All-American accolades.

White Cloud's young varsity B quintet also performed admirably on October 17, placing 7th. Sophomore Zane Keith and senior Heather Grveles led the way. Also playing impressively were Wyatt Karnes, and Breana and Bethany Lodden.

The team and coaching staff wish to thank Ed and Melinda Shepard for their diligent work behind the scene to ensure the success of White Cloud's quiz bowl program. ■



*Varsity A team: Janessa Shepard, Parker Karnes, Malachi Graves, Anthony Solis-Victoria and Coach Tony McHattie.*



*Varsity B team: Wyatt Karnes, Heather Grveles, Bethany Lodden, Zane Keith, and Breana Lodden. Coach Steven Smith not pictured.*

# Volleyball's Seniors Go Out in Style with District Championship

When White Cloud's girls turned up for the opening of volleyball season, they were already facing enormous challenges.

There was the ongoing COVID pandemic, clamping down on any sense of a normal start-up.

Even more, there was the unexpected passing of Miranda Vincent, a much-loved and valued member of the coaching staff.

Miranda was the sister of long-time coach Desirae Strait. Miranda's loss was both heartbreaking and motivating, Ms. Strait said.

"As a team, we were just faced with so much adversity from the start," she said. "But all of us wanted to turn this into something special. We were reminded that we were just grateful to be playing the sport that we all loved. That Miranda loved."

Yet the regular season did not go according to plan, with the Indians finishing 4th in the conference.

"This is not where we wanted to be, obviously," Ms. Strait said, and team members turned their focus to winning the district tournament.

Determined, with a new mindset, the Indians went to Hart and came away with the District 3 trophy following a 3-1 victory over Hesperia.

They followed that triumph with the high honor of earning Academic All-State team honors.

Her five seniors can look back with White Cloud Pride, Ms. Strait said, both for their team and individual accomplishments.

Four-year starter Alexis Strait, Ms. Strait's daughter, racked up 311 aces over her career - good enough for the Michigan record book - with 1,401 digs, 2,001 assists, and 758 kills.

Alexis was chosen to four all-conference and four Muskegon area dream teams. And three times she was named to All-State and All-Region teams.

Alexis had plenty of help from her teammates and friends. Cassie Watson, a three-year varsity starter, began as a front row player and graduated to a six-rotation player. Cassie "really came alive in the last three weeks of the season, and played a huge role in the recent district tournament," Coach Strait said. Cassie's career stats include 389 kills and 459 digs.

Naomi Thompson also started her varsity time as a three-rotation player before moving up to a six-rotation player. She had the top serving percentage on the team, and "became an integral role in our district win," her coach said.

Emily Hodges was a consistent middle for the past two years. "Emily was always a positive force on the court and was able to get us some touches during the big games," Ms. Strait noted.

Kara Davis is a two-year player and "one of the best teammates I have coached," Ms. Strait said.

"Her encouragement to her teammates was unlike any other." Kara was able to get onto the court in the final game of districts and "provided some crucial plays we needed to win."

"I am just so proud of these five seniors and the rest of the Lady Indians on their amazing season finish," Ms. Strait said.

Congratulations also to junior Carsyn Scarlavai, who earned all-conference honorable mention and Muskegon area honorable mention, as voted by the area's volleyball coaches. ■



*The White Cloud volleyball team was 2020 district champions and earned Academic All-State.*



*White Cloud senior Alexis Strait completed her volleyball career with a number of individual and team honors.*





# Cross Country Teams Earn State, Academic Honors after Great Seasons

The White Cloud Cross Country team was extremely grateful for the opportunity to start and finish our season as scheduled, despite Covid restrictions.

Our 19 boys and 12 girls were thankful that the nature of our sport allowed us to meet and practice within the guidelines set forth by the MHSAA.

Even though a few meets were cancelled and others restricted spectators, our team didn't let these changes stand in the way of their success.

The boys team finished second in the CSAA league, first at the Ludington Invitational, and second at the Kelder Poured Walls Invitational.

Their post-season started with winning pre-regionals and finishing third at regionals, earning them a spot at the MHSAA state meet in Brooklyn, Michigan.

Our state meet roster consisted of Kobe Canning, Nathan Ciolk, Tristan McHaney, Christian Ringler, Nik Parks, Terry Trendel, and Carson Foondle. On November 7, the boys placed 12th in the Division 4 race, along the way earning Academic All-State Honors.

Individual honors include CSAA first team awards for Tristan McHaney (conference champion), Kobe, and Nathan. Terry and Nik were named to the CSAA Honorable Mention squad. Nathan, Tristan and Kobe were also All-Region and individual State Qualifiers. Both Kobe and Christian were also awarded individual Academic All-State certificates.

Both Nathan (17:11.2) and Tristan (17:19.1) will have their names added to the record board in the high school gym lobby.

*White Cloud's boys team at their starting box for the opening of the state meet.*



The girls team finished fourth in the CSAA league, first at the Ludington Invitational, second at pre-regionals, and third at regionals, also earning a ticket to the state meet, where they finished 20th in the Division 4 race.

This is an amazing accomplishment considering that, at the beginning of the season, we were not sure if we would have enough girls to compete at that level.

Girls competing at the state meet were Naomi Thompson, Alexis Richmond, Stine Kristensen, Andrea Feldpausch, Jolena Deaton, Cecelia Rodriguez, and Chloe Higgs. The girls team also earned Academic All-State distinction.

Individual awards included CSAA Honorable Mention nods for Naomi and Stine. Stine, along with Alexis Richmond, earned All-Region and individual State Qualifier status. Stine will see her name added to the record board (21:44.0) before she heads back to her home country of Denmark.

Congratulations to all the runners on their 2020 season!

Our program continues to grow and we are seeing success at many levels. We instill the importance of effort, goal-setting, academics, and sportsmanship.

As always, our junior high and high school teams are looking to expand their rosters. Any student currently in grades 5-11 interested in running in the 2021 season should reach out to Mrs. Atwood at [atwooda@whitecloud.net](mailto:atwooda@whitecloud.net) or call 689-3345. ■

*White Cloud's girls at the rear entrance of the Michigan International Speedway track. (Photos courtesy of Joan Ludtke.)*



# Nutrition Services Continues Efforts to Feed Off-site Students

Meals for remote learning and quarantined students are available for weekly pick up on Mondays in front of the junior high from 2 to 3:30 p.m., when school is in session, by signing up online.

On half days, which include February 15, March 15, and May 3, pick-up will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the same location.

The bagged meals for the week include a breakfast and a lunch for each day of scheduled school. Meals are for White Cloud Public Schools-enrolled students only.

The meal sign-up page is located on the school district website under Food Services & Menu-Meal Orders.

You must sign-up by 12 p.m. on Sunday prior to that week's Monday pick-up date and time. Meal sign-up includes the student's name, grade, lunch ID number, and telephone number.

If you have further questions, please call John Rosenberg at 231-689-3231.

The Nutrition Services Department is always looking for qualified candidates to work in our department. If you are interested in a position or possibly becoming a substitute, please stop at the administration office and fill out a job application, or contact John Rosenberg at 231-689-3231. ■



**ENGAGE Michigan**

#### What is ENGAGE Michigan?

For many students, going from a traditional classroom to learning from home can be a real challenge. Michigan's Department of Education has partnered with Graduation Alliance to provide an extra layer of support for students in grades k-12 and their families who might be struggling with these changes.

Students who choose to participate in the program will get an academic coach to work with them to answer questions, connect them with resources, and develop a plan to get on track and finish the school year strong.

#### How does it work?

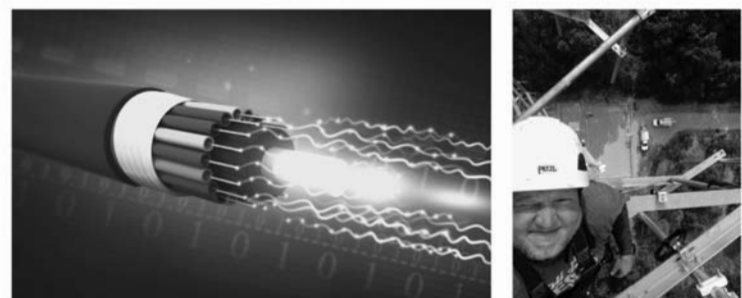
Graduation Alliance is reaching out to students through phone calls, emails, text messages and more to get students started.

#### What does it cost?

There is no cost for the student. ENGAGE Michigan is completely free to students.

## \$2 Million Fiber Project Expands Internet Coverage For Local School Districts

THIS TWO-YEAR PROJECT WILL ENSURE DISTRICTS HAVE THE FASTEST AND MOST RELIABLE INTERNET FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS OR MORE.



### No Out of Pocket Costs to Local Districts

The E-Rate program has awarded funds to NC RESA for both the replacement of existing fiber and the expansion of fiber between local school districts.

The total cost of this project is over \$2 Million dollars. Along with E-rate funding, the Newaygo County RESA NCATS fund will cover \$350,000, resulting in NO out of pocket costs to local districts.

### Replaces Existing Fiber

The original fiber to be replaced was constructed in 1995, and while still in working condition it has aged significantly in the last 25 years and lacks modern protection.

### New Fiber Expansion

Two new links to create full north/south/east/west connections will be added to prevent service outages and enables direct links between any combination of districts.



Newaygo County RESA  
4747 W. 48th Street  
Fremont, MI 49412

# White Cloud Graduates Team Up to Write Noted Book

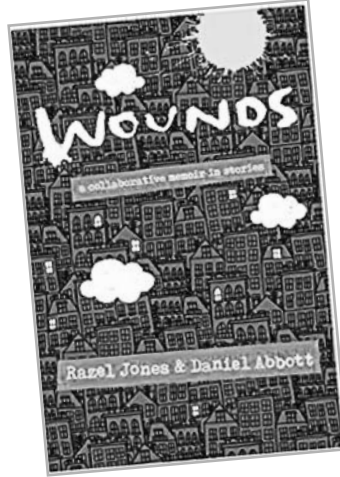
*Wounds: A Collaborative Memoir in Stories* is about the triumphs and the pains experienced in Razel Jones, (African American) and Daniel Abbott's (Caucasian) collective journey toward cross-cultural navigation.

Jones and Abbott explore the concepts of race, difference, and cross-cultural navigation through stories beginning with their youthful experiences in rural northwestern Michigan.

On the heels of the senseless, race-inspired murders of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor, change is past due. The void of understanding difference and the need for activists and allies in various forms is absolute.

This book offers tools to enable the building of meaningful cross-cultural relationships and to inspire activism and advocacy.

These true stories will cause those who have experienced similar racism to resonate with the cycles, behaviors, and responses. They will inspire allies to emotionally connect and dive deeper into realization of the patterns of oppression. All readers will grow in empathy and be compelled to amp up efforts to be more anti-racist, culturally intelligent, and effective in standing against inequities.



Razel Jones (White Cloud Class of 1993) is a diversity and inclusion professional, speaker, and the Director of Equity and Inclusion at Tennessee State University.

In 2016, he released his first book, *See What You Hear*, a piece about actualizing vision. His most recent project is *Wounds* (available November 3, 2020), co-authored with Daniel Abbott.

Jones has a BA in English language and literature from Grand Valley State University and an MBA from Northwood University. He has professional certifications in cultural intelligence, HR, strengths, civil rights, and affirmative action. He and his family reside in the Nashville, Tennessee area.

Daniel Abbott (White Cloud Class of 1995) is the author of the novel *The Concrete* and the co-author (Razel Jones) of the collaborative memoir *Wounds*. His writing has appeared in *Lit Hub*, the *Noctua Review*, the *Ginosko Literary Journal*, and the *Owen Wister Review*.

Daniel has a BA in writing from Grand Valley State University and an MFA in fiction from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Daniel lives with his family in Grand Rapids, Michigan. ■

---

## New School Resource Officer on Board

White Cloud schools would like to extend a big welcome to Kyle Rasch as our new school resource officer.

Officer Rasch recently graduated from Grand Valley State University. He completed his internship with the Newaygo County Sheriff's Department from January through March 2020. The internship experience confirmed Officer Rasch's desire to be a police officer.

He says he was always interested in law enforcement, but life took him in a different career path over the last several years. Yet Officer Rasch continued to talk to people about becoming an officer.



Officer  
Kyle Rasch

He eventually made the move, giving police work a chance as a second career. Ultimately, he says he wanted to do something meaningful with his career, something where he could make a difference.

He is excited to be at White Cloud schools and in the White Cloud community. His positivity, relationship-building skills, and meaningful connections have already been noticed.

Welcome, Officer Rasch! ■

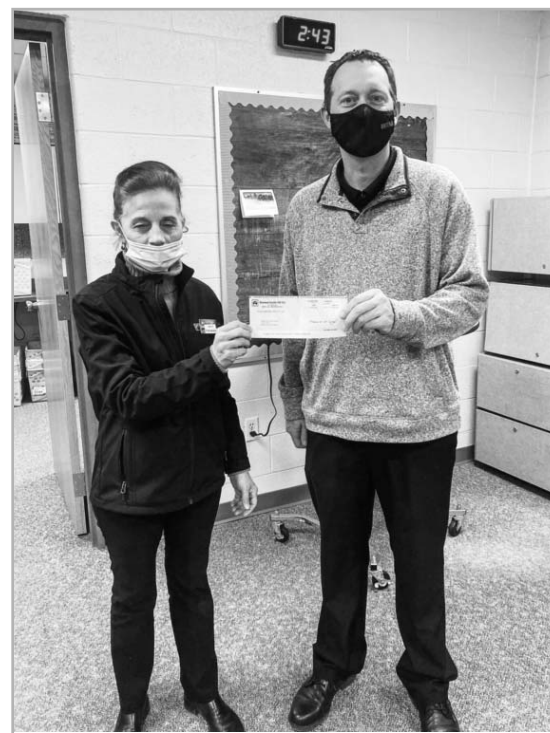
## EZ-Mart Again Honors WC Students

White Cloud schools are pleased to once again thank the EZ Mart in Brohman for its continued appreciation for our students by nominating us for the ExxonMobile Educational Alliance program award.

The school district was awarded \$500 for the maintenance and support of its math and science programs.

Thank You to EZ-Mart and its employees. WC PRIDE! ■

**ExxonMobil**



RURAL ROUTE BOX HOLDER  
POST OFFICE BOX  
OR OCCUPANT

White Cloud Public Schools  
P.O. Box 1000  
White Cloud, MI 49349

### Important School Phone Numbers

Superintendent's Office  
(231) 689-6591

High School  
(231) 689-1705

Junior High  
(231) 689-2181

White Cloud Elementary  
(231) 689-2300

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GREENVILLE, MI 48838  
PERMIT # 338  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION