

# DIRECTIONS



► NEWS FROM LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

BACK TO SCHOOL 2024



## PINK ARROW XVII: CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Pink Arrow Pride remains steadfast in its mission to the Lowell community in lending emotional and financial support for families on a cancer journey. As we gear up for Pink Arrow XVII, Pink Arrow Pride continues to be a beacon of hope and support, benefitting the Gilda's Club Lowell Clubhouse, the Lowell Area Community Wellness Organization, and maintaining student scholarships in memory of Kathy Talus and in honor of Dr. Gerard. With total donations now exceeding \$1.5 million, we continue to be inspired by the incredible generosity and spirit of our small town.

Pink Arrow Pride has not only raised significant funds but also heightened awareness about the pervasive impact of cancer. This initiative has brought to light the importance of community involvement and showcased our Lowell athletes' unwavering commitment to family, kindness, honor, and service. As the saying goes, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," and this sentiment perfectly encapsulates the spirit of Pink Arrow Pride.

**Mark your calendars for our Community Day on August 22, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Lowell Showboat.**

The Corewell Health mobile mammography bus and Versiti Blood of Michigan's annual Pink Arrow blood drive return again this year. This is also the start of in-person purchases of the iconic Pink Arrow t-shirts, which serve as your ticket to the game. If you would like a name added to the back of your Pink Arrow gear, it's just a short walk down the riverwalk to Fandangled Custom Apparel on Main Street. This local shop specializes in custom apparel and will ensure your Pink Arrow gear is personalized to perfection. Adding a name not only makes your gear unique but also shows your personal commitment to supporting our community. Fandangled is an Authorized Dealer of Pink Arrow gear and has additional items available in store.

**Pink Arrow Game Three-Day Celebration Showcases Team Talent**

This year, we are excited to bring you three days of Pink Arrow game action. This allows us to better showcase the incredible talent of each team. By spreading the games over three evenings, we provide ample opportunity for fans to fully engage with each match, fostering a more vibrant community spirit. This format not only highlights the dedication and hard work of the players but also ensures that every team receives the recognition they deserve. Our goal is to create an unforgettable experience that celebrates athleticism, unity, and the shared mission of raising awareness and support for families on a cancer journey.

**Catch all three games with your Pink Arrow XVII Gear!**

September 11

Varsity Men's Soccer at 7 p.m.

September 12

Varsity Women's Volleyball (outside, weather permitting) 7 p.m.

September 13

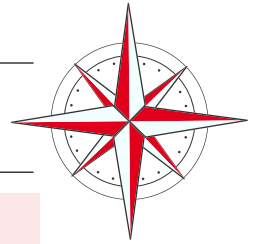
Varsity Football | Gates open at 5 p.m.

Survivor walk at 6 p.m. | Game action at 7:10 p.m.

- CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

**LEARNERS TODAY. LEADERS TOMORROW. RED ARROWS FOR LIFE.**

# SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS



We are excited to kick off the 2024-25 school year!



*Nate Fowler*  
*Superintendent*

Every year, when the calendar flips to August, the air fills with excitement for the opportunities and growth ahead for our students and our district. We can't wait to welcome students on August 20 for the first day of school.

As I start my 26th year in Lowell and my 5th year as LAS Superintendent, I want to pause to express my appreciation for our students and their families, staff, and supportive community.

I frequently hear from people outside of our community that groups of students from Lowell are courteous and respectful when they represent our school district at various events. Our students embody our motto/vision of "Learners Today. Leaders Tomorrow. Red Arrows for Life." We strive to ensure all students feel a sense of belonging at LAS. This sense of belonging helps ensure our students reach their full potential and meet academic expectations in literacy, math, and all content areas. Thank you, students, for your enthusiasm, curiosity, and the positive ways you represent yourselves and your community inside and outside school.

I appreciate your partnership with our students' families as we work together on their learning journey. Thank you for all the support you give to your students, their teachers, and the schools. Open communication between home

and school allows us to provide opportunities for our students to grow and solve problems as they learn to navigate life's challenges.

Thank you to the LAS staff for your dedication to helping students set and achieve important goals. Your expertise is evident in the high rates of achievement and growth that our students demonstrate year after year. Thank you for building relationships with students and their families so our students feel supported. Creating a sense of belonging is a crucial part of school success.

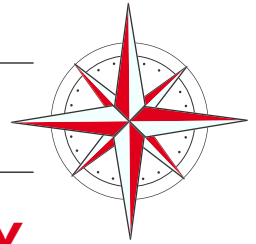
Finally, thank you to the community for supporting our schools. Thank you for the time that you volunteer to help our students or beautify our schools. Thank you for your attendance at school events. Thank you for voting last May to pass the school bond millage extension. The design process has begun to begin renovations at Cherry Creek Elementary, starting during the 2025-26 school year. The successful bond sale in June for that project is a positive reflection of our entire community.

For me, Lowell continues to be a great place to live and raise a family. Thank you to all for your role in supporting Lowell Area Schools. The 2024-25 school year is shaping up to be a great one.

## Go Arrows Fight Song

Go Red Arrows  
Lowell Red Arrows  
It's not hard to see  
That the Red Arrows  
Lowell Red Arrows  
Will bring home the victory  
You know that everyone here  
will stand up and cheer  
For everybody knows  
It's a V-I-C-T-O-R-Y  
for the Red Arrows!

# TRANSPORTATION NEWS



## 2024-25 BUS INFORMATION

### NO EXTRA RIDER POLICY

Lowell Area Schools has a no extra rider policy, meaning friends cannot ride home on another friend/family member's bus for sleepovers, practice, projects, dances, drivers training, etc. Please make other ride arrangements if your child needs to go home with someone. If they come out to the bus with a friend, they will be sent back into the office.

### SCHOOLS OF CHOICE BUSING

If you live in the district and participate in internal or out-of-district schools of choice, please note that busing is not guaranteed and depends on student numbers. Do not go to a previous year's bus stop unless instructed by the transportation department. We prioritize in-district students first, followed by internal schools of choice, and then out-of-district students. Bus placements are on a first-come, first-served basis, starting in the first week of August.

### MAIN ROADS ONLY

Occasionally, due to weather, the Superintendent will call for buses on main roads only. The location is a predetermined spot where you can bring your child to the bus. Buses will travel on main roads only for the entire day, even if the weather changes. The transportation department will contact families who are not on a main road.

### LATE TO THE BUS STOP

We ask all of our students to be 5 minutes early at the bus stop. If you are running late, please call the Transportation Department at 616.987.2540, and we will give you an alternate location to meet the bus and alert the driver. Never allow your child to run up to or alongside the bus as the bus pulls away. This is extremely dangerous and could have life-altering consequences.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

**fact:**  
**MOTORISTS WHO ARE CARELESS AROUND THE SCHOOL BUS PUT CHILDREN IN DANGER**

**LEARN THE FACTS  
PLAY IT SAFE  
schoolbusfacts.com**

**DANGER ZONE SAFE DRIVING PROCEDURES**  
NATIONAL CONGRESS ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

**DANGER ZONE**  
MOTORISTS SHOULD NOT BE WITHIN A 10-FOOT RADIUS AROUND ALL SIDES OF THE SCHOOL BUS.

**STOP ZONE**  
STOP AT A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL BUS WHEN THE STOP ARM IS OUT AND THE FLASHING RED LIGHTS ARE ON.

**WHEN A SCHOOL BUS IS PRESENT**  
TRAVEL SLOWER AND FARTHER AWAY FROM THE SCHOOL BUS. SLOW DOWN WHEN THE FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS GO ON.

**PASSING VEHICLES CAUSE AN ESTIMATED TWO-THIRDS OF SCHOOL BUS LOADING AND UNLOADING FATALITIES.**

**MORE SCHOOL-AGE PEDESTRIANS ARE KILLED FROM 7-8 A.M. AND 3-4 P.M. THAN ANY OTHER TIMES OF DAY.**

**Brake FOR THE SCHOOL BUS**

Motorists risk children's lives when they fail to stop for the school bus as it loads and unloads its passengers. Yet it's estimated that over 10 million drivers illegally pass school buses every year. To keep children safe, start by learning the laws in your state. It's illegal to pass a school bus within the roadway as it drops off or picks up passengers—regardless of the direction of approach. Remember that there is no "safe" way to illegally pass the school bus, so be cautious when sharing the road with it. Finally, let others know that putting kids' lives at risk is not OK. Report aggressive drivers and spread the word by sharing material found at schoolbusfacts.com. Take a pledge to brake for the school bus.

**NOW HIRING**

## DRIVE A BUS FOR LAS!

The wheels on the bus go round and round, but only with a crew of amazing drivers! Want to join our team?

Full Time Wage: \$20.71-\$21.99 (based on driving experience)

Sub Wage: Starting at \$20.71 (based on driving experience)

\*Training Paid for by the District\*

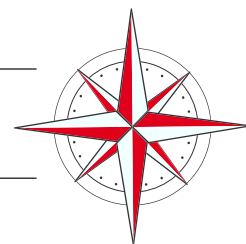
Regular availability to the employer on a daily split shift schedule during 6 - 9 a.m. and 2 - 5 p.m. is preferred, but we will consider applicants with daily availability for either shift. Must be able to complete the training provided by the employer to acquire a CDL.

For more information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kara Mrozinski at 616.987.2545 or kmrozinski@lowellschools.com.





# ORIENTATION GUIDE



## PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY

### CURIOSITY CORNER PRESCHOOL

Teacher Announcement Emails August 14  
Meet the Teacher/Open House August 28  
AM and PM Options  
Preschool Start date Tuesday, September 3

TOTS (Toddlers On Track for School)  
Tuesday and Wednesday playgroups start on October 15, with online sign ups.

### ALTO ELEMENTARY

Meet the Teacher is August 19 from 5 - 6:30 p.m.

### BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY

Meet the Teacher is August 19 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

### CHERRY CREEK

Meet the Teacher is August 19 from 5 - 6:30 p.m.

### MURRAY LAKE

Meet the Teacher is August 19 from 5 - 6:30 p.m.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SMART START

August 12 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Students with last name beginning with the letters A - K.

August 13 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Students with last name beginning with the letters L - Z.

Watch your email for a link to schedule a 10-minute time slot during Smart Start for your student to get their Chromebook. Your student will also have a chance to walk through their schedule and to test their lockers.

## SPORTS INFORMATION

Student-athletes must be registered online at FinalForms (<https://lowell-mi.finalforms.com>), our online student-athlete management system that the athletic department uses to register athletes, sign forms digitally, check eligibility, etc. FinalForms also provides coaches with a list of students interested in trying out or participating in their sport. Coaches can then use the FinalForms lists to communicate with students and parents.

Returning Athlete: If your child was registered in FinalForms for a sport last year, parents and athletes would only be required to make any necessary updates, acknowledge the required forms, and sign and select the sport(s) for the 2024-25 academic year.

New Athlete: New athletes would be incoming 9th-grade students who did not participate in sports last year and new students to the district. New registrations--go to FinalForms and complete preliminary registration information, and you will then receive an email to confirm your account and continue the registration process, sign forms, etc. After parents complete the registration process, the students need to check their student email account for instructions on logging in and digitally sign their forms at FinalForms.

### MHSAA Sports Physical Requirement

The MHSAA requires that all student-athletes have a physical on file before participating in athletics. The physical must be dated on or after April 15, 2024.

## LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

### Freshman Smart Start | August 15

9 - 11 a.m. Students with last name A - K  
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Lunch cookout and activities fair (all freshman students)  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Students with last name L - Z

### Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Orientation August 13 and 14

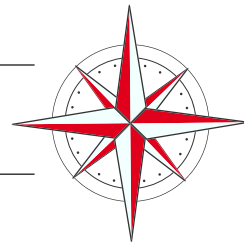
Returning students must make an appointment through SchoolBookings to sign out their Chromebook for the year. They will complete the rest of the orientation either before or after their appointment. Students should monitor their school email account for further instructions from the library staff on how to book the appointment.

All high school parents should review the letter that was emailed July 22, 2024 before sending their students to Smart Start and Orientation. For questions, please contact the high school office at 616.987.2900.





# CONTACT INFO

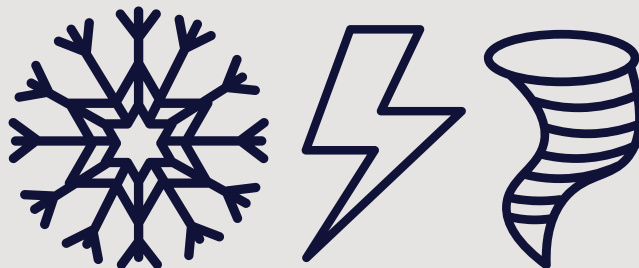


## LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

### 2024-25 DIRECTORY & DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Preschool-12th Grades	Phone	Attendance	Fax
Curiosity Corner Preschool 320 Amity, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2570		987.2571
Alto Elementary (K-5) 6150 Bancroft, Alto, MI 49302	987.2600	987.2625	987.2611
Bushnell Elementary (K - 1) 700 Elizabeth, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2650	987.2675	987.2661
Cherry Creek Elementary (2-5) 12675 Foreman, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2700	987.2725	987.2711
Murray Lake Elementary (K-5) 3275 Alden Nash, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2750	987.2775	987.2761
Lowell Middle School (6-8) 750 Foreman, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2800	987.2825	987.2811
Lowell High School 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2900	987.2925	987.2911
Lowell High School Freshman Center 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2950	987.2925	987.2961
Unity High School 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2550	987.2575	987.2561

District Departments	Phone	Fax
Administration Building 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2500	987.2511
Athletic Office 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2907	987.2911
Food Service 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2964	987.2952
Performing Arts Center (LPAC) 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2956	987.2911
Counseling Office 11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2908	987.2911
Transportation Dept. 12695 Foreman, Lowell, MI 49331	987.2540	987.2544



### SEVERE WEATHER | OUR PROCEDURES

The Board of Education, being deeply concerned for the safety of our students, realizes the importance of pre-planning to ensure the protection of students and staff when the potential for violent weather exists. Therefore, the following procedures are in effect:

- Students who are in school when a tornado watch is issued will remain in school until the regular dismissal time.
- If students are in school when a tornado WARNING is issued for our area, they will be escorted to pre-defined areas of safety within each building and remain there until the warning is lifted.
- Lowell Area Schools' policy is not to dismiss students to parents during a tornado WARNING, even if it means holding students beyond the regular dismissal time. If students are held 30 minutes or longer beyond their standard dismissal time due to a tornado WARNING, we bus elementary students home after the warning is lifted, and secondary students need to be picked up by parents or guardians.
- School may be delayed in the event of early morning tornado watches or WARNINGS. Check the radio or television for information.
- After-school activities underway when a WARNING is issued will cease, and participants and spectators will be instructed to take cover.
- Parents must assume responsibility for ensuring their children understand where they are to go if school is canceled for any emergency.
- We may waive any provision of the above policy if, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Schools or designee, special measures are necessary to ensure the safety of students.

When the weather is bad on any school day, a postponement or closing is broadcast over the radio stations listed below, MyCallNow App, and Facebook. Every effort is made to have the notice of a school postponement or closing on the air by 6 a.m.

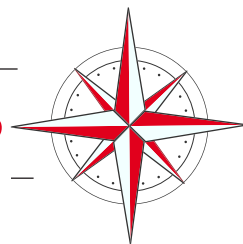
RADIO STATIONS: WGRD, WLAV, WLHT, WOOD-AM, and WOOD-FM

TELEVISION STATIONS: FOX-17, WOOD-TV, and WZZM-TV

SOCIAL MEDIA: MyCallNow, Facebook, and Instagram



# STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS NOTIFICATION



## **Search & Seizure**

The Board of Education has charged school authorities with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search school property such as lockers used by students or the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, in accordance with the following policy.

The Board acknowledges the need for in-school storage of student possessions and shall provide storage places, including desks and lockers, for that purpose. Where locks are provided for such places, students may lock them against incursion by other students, but in no such places shall students have an expectation of privacy as to prevent examination by a school official. The Board directs the school principals to conduct a routine inspection at least annually of all such storage places. In the course of any search, student's privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against Board policy.

The Board also authorizes the use of canines, trained in detecting the presence of drugs or devices, when the Superintendent has reasonable suspicion that illegal drugs or devices may be present in a school. This means of detection shall be used only to determine the presence of drugs in locker areas and other places in the school where such substances could be concealed. Canine detection must be conducted in collaboration with law enforcement authorities or other certified organizations and is not to be used to search students unless either a warrant or parental permission has been obtained prior to the search.

The Board recognizes that the privacy of students or his/her belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable suspicion or in an unreasonable manner. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction, the student's age, and the student's disciplinary history. This authorization to search shall also apply to all situations in which the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board.

Reasonable suspicion that a communication device has been used to violate District policies or administrative guidelines shall be subject to disciplinary action and may result in the communication device being confiscated.

Administrators are authorized to arrange for a breath-test instrument, according to the Superintendent's guidelines, for the purpose of determining if a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. It is not necessary for the test to determine blood-alcohol level, since the Board has established a zero tolerance for alcohol use.

Except as provided below, a request for the search of a student or a student's possessions will be directed to the principal. S/He shall attempt to obtain the freely offered consent of the student to the inspection; however, provided there is reasonable suspicion, s/he may conduct the search without such consent. Whenever possible, a search will be conducted by the principal in the presence of the student and a staff member other than the principal. A search prompted by the reasonable belief that health and safety are immediately threatened will be conducted with as much speed and dispatch as may be required to protect persons and property.

Search of a student's person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by a person of the student's gender, in the presence of another staff member of the same gender, and only in exceptional circumstances when the health or safety of the student or of others is immediately threatened.

The principal shall be responsible for the prompt recording in writing of each student search, including the reasons for the search; information received that established the need for the search and the name of informant, if any; the persons present when the search was conducted; any substances or objects found, and the disposition made of them; and any subsequent action taken. The principal shall be responsible for the custody, control, and disposition of any illegal or dangerous substance or object taken from a student.

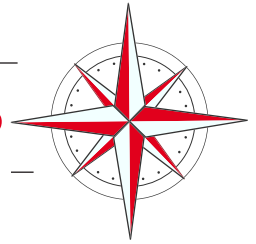
## **Pesticides**

State of Michigan law requires that schools and day care centers that may apply pesticides on school or day care property must provide an annual advisory to parents or guardians of students attending the facility.

Please be advised that the Lowell Area Schools utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion, and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical application of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide, or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation, this is made to the school or day care grounds or buildings during this school year. Please note that notification is not given for the use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants, or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

# STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS NOTIFICATION



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Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by at least 2 methods. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance to the school, which is located at Main office of the respected building. The second method will be a posting in a public, common area of the school or day care center, other than an entrance. We will post in the buildings break area.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school or day care center are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least 3 days before the pesticide application if they so request. If you prefer to receive the notification by first class mail, please complete the form below and return it to our office.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the schools' Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application upon request.

## **Asbestos & Indoor Air Quality**

Lowell Area Schools has taken a proactive approach to indoor air quality at all of our school buildings by using monthly walk-through assessments. Observation is made for water incursion and fungal growth, as well as for odor detection. Our school has implemented an asbestos management plan that was approved by the Michigan Department of Public Health on July 31, 1989. This plan details the response actions that the district has taken regarding asbestos-containing materials found in our schools. The plan is available for inspection at our Administration Office, 300 High Street, during normal business hours. We are confident that the proper management of asbestos-containing building materials will protect human health and the environment. Please direct questions or concerns regarding asbestos to the Director of Operations, (616) 987-2514.

## **Water Quality**

The Amendments to Act 1976 PA 399, Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, R 325.1016 stipulates that school districts must disclose information regarding water quality in our school buildings that are not supplied by municipal water supplies. The Lowell Area Schools conducted the required water testing at all school buildings every school year. All water samples taken show results in our buildings to be compliant with Act 1976 PA 399, Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, and R 325.10416. Questions can be directed to the Director of Operations at (616) 987-2514.

## **Student Accident Insurance**

Lowell Area Schools does not provide student accident insurance. As a service to students and their families, Lowell Area Schools has coordinated the ability for families to purchase student accident insurance plan through First Agency, Inc. for any enrolled child in grades Pre-K thru 12, at a very nominal cost. The most basic plan covers your child while s/he is at school and involved in supervised events (classroom, halls, playground, etc), this plan excludes interscholastic sports. Plan purchase options allow for additional coverage, up to 24-hours including interscholastic sports, except grades 9-12 football. Some plans offer extended dental coverage as well. Grade 9-12 football participation insurance is available as a stand-alone policy.

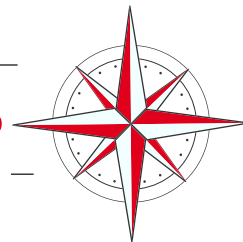
These plans would be a secondary plan to any other insurance your child may be covered by. If you have no insurance at all for your child, this is an opportunity to provide at least a base level of coverage during the school day. Plans will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident. Deductibles and co-pays in your current health plan require you to pay out of pocket costs first, while these plans allow benefits to be applied to your deductible or co-pays.

For more information, or to purchase coverage, contact First Agency. Lowell Area Schools makes no warranty or guarantee on this insurance plan and is not responsible in the administering of benefits. We are not an agent of First Agency, Inc. and receive no compensation, of any kind or form, for offering this service or any enrollments generated. Coverage does not become effective until the later of the date premium is received at First Agency, Inc. or the first day of school. All questions regarding this coverage should be directed to First Agency, Inc. at (269) 381-6630.

## **Student Directory Information**

No Child Left Behind (Section 9528) requires student directory information be made available to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a student or his/her parents may request that information not be released without prior written consent. FERPA Requirements: Lowell Area Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information defined as a student's name, grade level, address, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a newsletter, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school. Because of the difficulty of keeping a multitude of mailing lists, most schools will honor a parent or student's blocking request by blocking the release to any and all requesters. Parents and students will thus need to know if blocking the release of information for one purpose will result in a student's information being blocked for all purposes. To make this request, please contact your student's school office in order to opt out of directory information release.

# STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS NOTIFICATION



## Homeless Information

If your family lives in any of the following situations: shelter, motel, vehicle, campground, on the street, or other inadequate accommodations, or doubled up with friends/relatives because you cannot afford housing, contact Dan VanderMeulen at (616) 987-2500.

## Tobacco Use/Products on School Grounds

In order to protect students and employees who choose not to use tobacco from an environment noxious to them and potentially damaging to their health, the Board prohibits the use of tobacco on District premises (owned or leased), in District vehicles, at all school-sponsored events and in all school buildings owned and/or operated by the District. For the purpose of this policy, "use of tobacco product" means any of the following: the carrying by a person of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other lighted smoking devices; the inhaling or chewing of a tobacco product; the placing of a tobacco product within a person's mouth; and/or the smoking of electronic, "vapor," or other substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes or other lighted smoking devices for burning tobacco or any other substance. Tobacco promotional items that promote the use of tobacco products, including clothing, bags, lighters, and other personal articles are not permitted on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school-sponsored events.

## Drug-Free Schools

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs includes any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials. The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

## Wellness

Lowell Area Schools makes a commitment to create a healthy school environment for its students and staff. This commitment is important for the development of healthy eating habits, as well as essential to developing healthy lifestyles. These developing lifestyles will be the foundation of maintaining health and wellness throughout one's life. During the school year, staff and children are encouraged to walk more and eat healthier. Through the adoption by the Board of Education of Lowell Area Schools' Policy 8510, healthy lifestyle messages will continue to be integrated into the school day through physical education and health and nutrition education. Parents and staff will be encouraged to celebrate birthdays and holidays using healthy snacks and not to use food as a reward system. Supporting healthy fundraisers is another way to create awareness about good nutrition and its benefits for all persons. These positive messages about nutrition and the importance of regular daily exercise will give students the tools they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle for themselves as part of our community. Together as we work toward healthier and more active lives, our collective support of this program will enhance the living environment of our community.

## Concussion Information

The Michigan Sports Concussion Law went into full effect on June 30th, 2013, and was recently amended in October of 2017. The sports concussion legislation requires all coaches, employees, volunteers and other adults involved with youth athletics to complete concussion awareness training every three years, or more frequently as determined by DHHS. The law also requires Lowell Area Schools to provide educational materials on sports concussions to parents/guardians and obtain signatures acknowledging receipt to keep on record. Lowell Area Schools provides the Parent & Athlete Concussion Information Sheet to all new enrollees to obtain the signed acknowledgment. We encourage parents and student-athletes to visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website to read about the new law and for additional information.

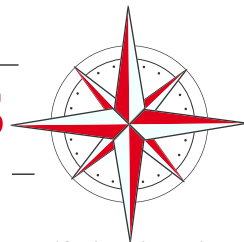
## Notification of Rights (FERPA)

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

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal [or appropriate official], clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.



# STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS NOTIFICATION



continued from page 8

Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in 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 school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. [Optional] Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:  
Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

## **Video Surveillance**

In order to protect Board property, promote security and protect the health, welfare, and safety of students, staff, and visitors, the Board of Education authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment on school property, and in school buildings and school buses. Information obtained through video surveillance/electronic monitoring may be used to identify intruders and persons breaking the law, Board policy, or the Student Code of Conduct (i.e., it may be used as evidence in disciplinary actions and criminal proceedings). Refer to Board Policy 7440.01.

## **Blood Borne Pathogens**

Guidelines have been established so that the District can comply with Federal regulations for protecting individuals against exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other infectious materials which can cause Hepatitis B and /or HIV viruses. A plan has been designed to identify likely situations where staff members could be exposed, to describe how such situations can be minimized, and the ways in which exposure will be managed. Part of the federally mandated procedures include a requirement that the District request permission from the parents of the student who was bleeding to consent to be tested for HBV and HIV. This information would then be provided to both the exposed employee and the treating physician to determine proper medical treatment.

## **Qualification of Staff**

Lowell Area Schools, as an educational institution that receives funds under Title I Part A., hereby notifies all parents that you may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher including:

- whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level(s) and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree;
- whether your child is provided services by Title I para-educators and if so, their qualification.

Those requesting this information may do so by contacting:

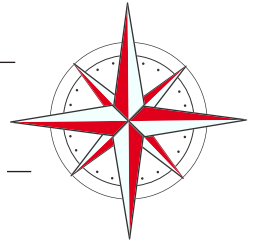
Director of Human Resources  
300 High Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331  
(616) 987-2500

## **Child Find Statement of Assurance**

Child Find activities are provided by Lowell Area Schools to assure we are meeting the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). IDEA requires the evaluation and identification of all students ages 0-25 who are suspected of having a disability that may impact their educational performance and who may require special education and/or related services. This includes students with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the state and children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of the disability. If you



# STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS NOTIFICATION



feel your child may have a disability that interferes with their ability to succeed educationally, please contact your child's building principal or the Student Services Office at (616) 987-2516.

### Nondiscrimination Notice

Lowell Area Schools is committed to maintaining an educational environment in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, free from discrimination and harassment. The District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, disability, military status, genetic information, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities, including employment. The District shall fully comply with all applicable federal and state civil rights statutes. Discrimination, retaliation, and harassment are prohibited whether occurring at school, on District property, in a District vehicle, or at any District-related activity or event.

The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual assault, in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinators, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. The District's Title IX Coordinators are:

Dustin Cichocki  
Director of Human Resources  
(616) 987-2500  
300 High Street  
Lowell, MI 49331

Inquiries related to Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap, should be directed to:

Liz McCall  
Director of Special Education  
(616) 987-2500  
300 High Street  
Lowell, MI 49331

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or harassment or make a complaint of sex discrimination or harassment under Title IX, please refer to the Grievance Procedure portion of the district website.

### 2024-25 Food Services Information

Free breakfast and lunch will be available to all students again this year. Milk can be purchased for \$0.50, and a la carte items will be available for middle and high school students.

We urge families to fill out free or reduced meal applications (<https://lowell.familyportal.cloud>) if they think they may qualify. These applications are crucial as they impact funding for the school, which supports instructional staff, counselors and social workers, schools nurses, and technology, just to name a few.

## Wittenbach Wege Center

*The trails are open dawn to dusk 365 days a year!*

### Trail Rules

- Stay on the trails
- No bicycles or motorized vehicles
- Respect all living things, Do not pick wildflowers and plants
- Water is OK, but please refrain from picnicking, eating or littering
- Dogs are welcome ONLY if they are leashed at ALL times and you clean up all animal waste and dispose at trash bin by the barn. Waste bags are available at trail head.

## INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



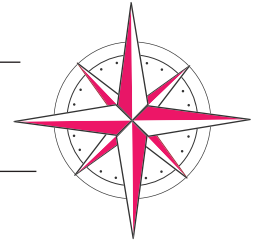
Wondering what's happening in schools across the District?  
Wonder no more!

Be sure to check out our channels!  
Facebook | [lowellareaschools](https://www.facebook.com/lowellareaschools)  
Instagram | [@lowelldistrict](https://www.instagram.com/lowelldistrict)



For closing information and other urgent notifications, visit the Apple or Google Play Stores and download MyCallNow. Enter Code #3587 to get specific notices for the Lowell Area Schools district.

# PINK ARROW PRIDE XVII



## PINK ARROW XVII

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. If you are interested in donating to Pink Arrow Pride, please visit [pinkarrowpride.com](http://pinkarrowpride.com) and click "Sponsorship Opportunities." There are many ways to support this event, including becoming a title sponsor, golf cart sponsor, or by purchasing a banner to be displayed on Main Street. You can also click "Donate" to make a donation in any amount or to donate in honor or memory of someone special. Checks can also be mailed to Pink Arrow Pride, 300 High Street, Lowell, MI 49331. All money raised stays in the Lowell community. Pink Arrow Pride is an entirely volunteer-run organization, and we rely on your generosity to continue our mission.

We are always seeking volunteers to help us make each event a success. For questions or more information, please contact us at [info@pinkarrowpride.com](mailto:info@pinkarrowpride.com).

Join us in our fight against cancer and help make Pink Arrow XVII a resounding success. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those battling cancer in our community.

**Over \$1.5 million has been raised by Pink Arrow Pride to help local families on a cancer journey.**



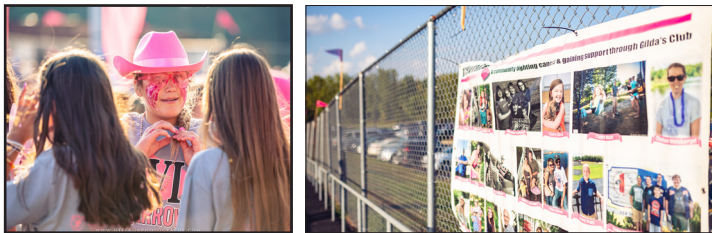
## 2023 FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

In December 2023, Pink Arrow Pride distributed nearly \$100,000 it raised throughout the year, with the bulk of those funds coming from t-shirt sales from Pink Arrow XVI.

Money from Pink Arrow Pride helps fund the Lowell Clubhouse of Gilda's Club, Lowell Community Wellness, and the Kathy Talus and Dr. Donald Gerard scholarships that are available to Lowell High School students who pursue a degree in medicine.

### 2023 Distribution

- Gilda's Club of Lowell: \$50,000
- Lowell Community Wellness: \$45,000
- College Scholarships: \$4,000



## THANK YOU TO OUR TITLE AND T-SHIRT SPONSORS!



Serving West and Northern Michigan for over 43 years!



KING MILLING COMPANY  
Quality You Can Trust.

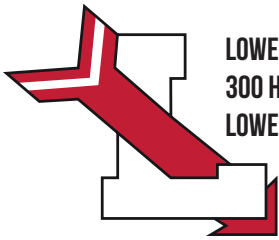


# ENWORK



RIES FAMILY  
Steve • Pam • Jenna





LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS  
300 HIGH STREET  
LOWELL, MICHIGAN 49331

LEARNERS TODAY.  
LEADERS TOMORROW.  
RED ARROWS FOR LIFE.

## CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

**Nate Fowler**  
Superintendent

**Sonia Hodge**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Dustin Cichocki**  
Director of Human Resources

**Dan VanderMeulen**  
Director of Curriculum

**Liz McCall**  
Director of Special Education

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Brian Krajewski**  
President

**Laurie Kuna**  
Vice President

**Tom Kaywood**  
Treasurer

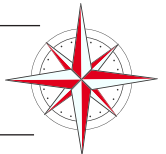
**Pat Nugent**  
Secretary

**Jared Blough**  
Trustee

**Jennifer Dougherty**  
Trustee

**Jessica Curtis**  
Trustee

# 2024-25 CALENDAR



### August 20

First Day of School

### August 23

No School Students | Full Day Staff

### August 30 - September 2

Labor Day Weekend  
No School for Students or Staff

### September 9

Board of Education Meeting  
Administration Building | 7 p.m.

### September 13

Pink Arrow Game | Lowell High School  
Gates Open 5 p.m.

### October 14

Board of Education Meeting  
Administration Building | 7 p.m.

### October 18

No School for Students or Staff

### October 31

Half Day Students | Full Day Staff

### November 11

Board of Education Meeting  
Administration Building | 7 p.m.

### November 15

Half Day Students | Full Day Staff  
End of 1st Trimester

### November 27 - 29

Thanksgiving Break  
No School for Students or Staff

### December 9

Board of Education Meeting  
Administration Building | 7 p.m.

### December 23 - January 3

Winter Break  
No School for Students or Staff