

L'Anse Creuse News September 2026

"No matter our backgrounds, we all have one common thread: our students and their success."

Fall Edition:

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Thank you, LCPS!

We are grateful to the LCPS community for passing the Operating Millage Proposal.

On August 4, the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools community voted to renew the Operating Millage, protecting approximately \$21 million in annual operating revenue and allowing the district to continue receiving its full per-pupil funding. The funding provided by the passing of the proposal will help sustain the educational programs, student services, and opportunities our students, staff, and families rely upon.

"On behalf of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Board of Education, our staff, and our students, thank you to everyone who participated in the Operating Millage Renewal election," Superintendent Keith Howell said in a statement to the community. "We recognize that this was an important decision for our community, and we are grateful to every resident who took the time to vote. We are committed to keeping students at the center of every decision."

Strong public schools are built through the partnership of students, families, staff, and the community. L'Anse Creuse Public Schools is honored to continue that partnership and remains committed to listening, serving, and working together to provide the very best opportunities for every student.

Thank you to the community for your continued support of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and the students we are privileged to serve.

Welcome Back!

Your L'Anse Creuse teachers and staff are excited to start the 2026-2027 school year with you!

The district welcomed all teachers and staff back for the 2026-2027 school year with our Annual Opening Day Kickoff event at the John Armstrong Performing Arts Center (JAPAC) on August 26. This special professional development event featured presentations from Superintendent Keith Howell and keynote speaker Brian Mendler, as well as a student panel called Mr. Howell and Friends.

Staff were introduced to this year's theme, 'The Power of Moments,' with each presentation aimed at solidifying that theme for the school year. During the 'Mr. Howell and Friends' panel, L'Anse Creuse students spoke about how simple moments, actions, or words from their teachers made an impact on them, with several students giving a personal shoutout to staff members in the audience. Afterwards, Brian Mendler gave his presentation to inspire teachers and staff to reflect on the ways they react and respond to different things throughout the school year. He provided advice, real-life scenarios, and techniques teachers can use to help themselves and their students thrive this school year.

Superintendent Keith Howell extends his thanks to keynote speaker Brian Mendler, the community and vendor partners who supported the event, the L'Anse Creuse Food and Nutrition department, and all our student leaders for the role they played in making the Opening Day Kickoff a success.

New Cell Phone Policy

This school year, the district will be implementing a new policy for cellular devices with the goal of keeping students focused, present, and ready for each school day. L'Anse Creuse will implement a phone-free school day for the 2026-2027 school year, prohibiting students from using cell phones during the school day except in limited circumstances outlined in district policy.

Devices are expected to be off or silenced and out of sight during the school day unless an exemption applies, such as with medically necessary devices, accommodations in IEPs or 504 Plans, district-issued technology, and emergency/safety situations.

By removing the distraction of cell phones, this policy aims to improve focus, encourage students to be more present and engaged in class, and create a more balanced student environment that encourages face-to-face interaction and reduces unnecessary distractions. We are excited to start this new chapter with students and make the 2026-2027 school year our most focused year yet!

Pictures: (Bottom left) Keynote speaker Brian Mendler speaks to audience of LCPS staff members. (Top right) Superintendent Keith Howell listening to student response during the "Mr. Howell and Friends" panel.

From the Superintendent

Dear L'Anse Creuse Community, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools enters the 2026-27 school year with strong momentum and focus on the future. Over the past year, we have continued investing in our schools, strengthening teaching and learning, and planning for the long-term needs of our district.

Bond-funded improvements are transforming facilities across LCPS, strengthening safety, addressing critical infrastructure needs, and creating modern learning environments. At the same time, we have sharpened our focus on high-quality instruction, meaningful use of student data, and consistent academic and behavioral supports, so every student has the opportunity to succeed.

This year will also be important in shaping what comes next for LCPS. As our current strategic plan approaches its conclusion, we will begin developing our next four-year strategic plan and performance framework with clear priorities and measurable outcomes. This process will bring together the voices of students, staff, families, and community members to help define our priorities and make sure that LCPS continues to provide outstanding opportunities for every student.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on the experiences we create for students every day. Our leadership focus this year is inspired by The Power of Moments and the idea that everyday experiences can have a lasting impact. Every interaction is an opportunity to help a student feel connected, supported, challenged, and proud to be part of L'Anse Creuse.

Families have choices when it comes to their child's education, and we want your child in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools. Here, students are known, challenged, and supported as individuals with unique strengths and potential. We are committed to creating experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence, and prepare students for life beyond our classrooms.

This work is only possible through strong partnerships with our families and community. When you walk into our schools, you should see and feel the difference. This is a place where students thrive.

We have much to be proud of and more work ahead. We will continue moving LCPS forward with a focus on students, responsible stewardship, continuous improvement, and preparing for the future.

I invite you to explore our website to learn more about the work happening across the district, including timelines for [bond improvements](#) and [district goals](#). You will also find a wide range of [Community Education](#) programs for youth and adults, from recreation and enrichment classes to fitness opportunities and senior programs.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. It is an honor to serve as Superintendent of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools.

Keith Howell
Superintendent

Pictures: (Top right) Headshot of Superintendent Keith Howell. (Middle left) Superintendent Keith Howell reading to preschool students in the Frederick V. Pankow Center's Teens for Tots program.

Bond Updates

For our students, for our community.

While students and staff were away this summer, work continued across the district to deliver on the promises made through the L'Anse Creuse 2024 Bond Program. Classrooms at Carkenord and Higgins Elementary Schools received new carpeting and hard surface flooring in the art rooms and cafeteria—along with new corridor flooring at Carkenord—and new athletic flooring is being installed in the school gyms.

Paving is complete at Middle School – Central and Graham Elementary School parking lots, while work at the Pankow Center lot is on schedule, with phases one through three finished and the section near the auditorium wrapping up in September. Middle School – East and Middle School – Central received new classroom flooring, mechanical room updates, and refurbishments in select areas, and three additional buildings received mechanical equipment upgrades and replacements.

Pool filtration, roofing, and equipment upgrades are complete at L'Anse Creuse High School and L'Anse Creuse High School – North. District-wide roofing and upgrades to PA and emergency notification systems, security cameras, and network infrastructure will continue to move forward through September. A replacement chiller at Middle School – East and a new band trailer for L'Anse Creuse High School are also expected this fall.

Looking ahead to 2027, playground upgrades and expanded safety and security technology are planned. The progress seen across our campuses represents the community's investment in our schools and our future.

Want more? Visit www.lc-ps.org for more information about ongoing district-wide bond projects.

Pictures: (Top left) New metal panels and windows at Middle School – Central. (Bottom left) Parent Drop Off Parking Lot at Marie C. Graham Elementary School.

Summer Updates

LCN Trap Team makes it to Nationals

The Trap Team from L'Anse Creuse High School - North had an outstanding season this year, taking first in their conference during the regular season and making an exciting appearance at both the state and national finals. At the state competition in June, two athletes—Alexander S.

and Robert K.— placed in the top 30 in the state in the individual varsity category, with the rest of the team having an impressive showing against their opponents.

Five team members—Ethan J., Robert K., Ian P., Adam R., and Tyler W.—made up the LCN National Squad and represented their school and the district with pride amongst fantastic competitors from across the nation. Robert K. placed 85th out of 1,752 competitors in the Individual Championship round, and the team placed 82nd out of 234 teams in qualifications, missing the championship round by only one target.

Picture: LCN Trap group photo.

Board of Education Summer Recognitions

The L’Anse Creuse Board of Education recognized several groups of students at the board meetings this summer. Each group of students had outstanding accomplishments at the end of the school year and were brought in front of their community to be officially commended for their work.

Milena N. from South River and Cecelia B. from Yacks were 2 of the 14 finalists in the Macomb Intermediate School District's "Little Inventors" Challenge. Milena and her invention, “The Giraffe Neck,” were honored at the meeting on June 22, and Cecelia and her invention, “The Binoc Cam,” were honored at the July 20 meeting.

Crusaders Cooper S. and Rachel O. were recognized on June 22 for their track prowess this spring. Rachel qualified for the pole vault at state track finals, and Cooper earned the distinction of State Champion in the Adaptive 100m, 200m, and 400m, as well as second place in shot put. Other state qualifiers included Leah K. from LCHS and Xavier S. from LCN.

At the July 20 meeting, Harmonie C. was recognized for receiving an honorable mention for the All-State Girls Tennis Team. Receiving this honor means her hard work and dedication were recognized not only by the coaches at LCN, but also by coaches from around the State of Michigan. The board also recognized the LCN Girls Flag Football team who competed in the state finals at Ford Field and made it to the semifinals round and earned the distinction as top four in the state.

Pictures: (Top left) State track competitors Cooper S. and Rachel O. holding up certificates for a picture during the board meeting on June 22. The pair are standing with their parents and Superintendent Keith Howell. (Bottom left) Cecelia B. stands with her parents, Yacks Principal Kelly Darlington, and Superintendent Keith Howell at the board meeting on July 20.

Free Summer Meal Program Success

The L’Anse Creuse Public Schools Food and Nutrition Department held its annual Meet Up & Eat Up Summer Meal Program, offering free meals for children 18 and under. Free meals were provided from June 15 to July 31 at Green Elementary and Tenniswood Elementary, along with mobile lunch service at Carriage Way, Fairchild Lake, and Willow Point.

Over the course of 34 serving days, the Food and Nutrition Department provided 3,006 breakfast meals and 4,980 lunches to students and families. At school locations, staff first provided meals to students and families. At school locations, staff first provided meals to students participating in summer camps and programs and then opened each site up to any child in the community. This allowed staff to support our students while also making meals accessible to children throughout the surrounding community.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) completed its Administrative Review of the program, which is standard procedure for summer meal programs, and recognized our staff for the cleanliness, organization, and accessibility of the meal service.

“We are incredibly proud of our Food & Nutrition staff and everyone who helped make our summer meal program welcoming, efficient, and accessible for families,” said Angela Scheid, Supervisor for Food and Nutrition. “Receiving such positive feedback from the Michigan Department of Education during our review was a great reflection of the hard work that goes into this program. It truly takes the cooperation of many people across our district to make our summer meal program successful, and we will continue working to increase awareness so that even more families know this resource is available to them.”

The district is incredibly grateful to the Food and Nutrition Department staff for their dedication to the health and wellbeing of the children in the community. As we move into the 2026-2027 school year, we know their efforts will continue to make a difference for L’Anse Creuse students.

Picture: Free Summer Meal Program Flyer Header.

Meet our New Staff for the 2026-2027 School Year!

- Deborah Antrikin
- Ashley Banks
- Whitney Boyd
- Paige Broadworth
- Lisa Brooks
- Kate Busk
- Christina Buskirk
- Jessica Buturla
- Cynthia Carlton
- Denyale Cameron Key
- Christina Clarke
- Janine Eckert
- Alexis Ferrell
- Christine Fuchs
- Eric Gauthier
- Jessica Gomez
- Emma Harb

- Ryan Hejl
- Alexandra House
- Ryan Lapierre
- Marla Lemley
- Riley Loria
- Amy Marineau
- Emily Mcclellan
- Nichole Meldrum
- Julia Mocerì
- Lillian Mocerì
- Aaron Ondra
- Ellen Oskoian
- Sydney Schocker
- Timothy Schornak
- Mitchell Segel
- Jenny Spoerl
- Amber Steiner
- Tatiana Stephens
- Jerrita Taylor
- Kristin Tunich
- Mariah Vantroostenberghe
- Jessica Vollaro
- Melissa Weible
- Jenna Welch

Community Education

The L'Anse Creuse Community Education program offers a wide range of trips, classes, and athletic opportunities for community members of all ages to enjoy. For more information on Community Ed. and the programs they offer, scan the QR code or visit app.smores.com/n/ybk9h

Trips and Tours

- Detroit Symphony Orchestra's *"Viva Las Vegas"* & Lunch at Polonia - October 26
- *"The Great Gatsby"* at the Fisher Theatre - November 25

Adult Offerings

- Fit to Dance
- Fitness 20/20/20
- Self Defense for Women
- Slow Flow Yoga
- Yoga Sculpt
- Beginner Piano and Guitar

Youth Offerings

- Youth Golf Lessons
- Babysitting/CPR training
- Learn to Skate at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena
- Self Defense for Children
- Piano, Guitar, Violin & Voice lessons

Additional Youth Programs

- L'Anse Creuse Wrestling - Youth & Middle School: L'Anse Creuse Wrestling Club, Inc. is a youth-based organization that teaches fundamental wrestling skills to boys and girls between ages of 4 and 14 years of age (pre-K – 8th grade). Our mission is to teach wrestling skills and develop a passion for this great sport. Our focus will be to develop each young wrestler's potential in a competitive and fun environment. Groups will be separated by age and skill level. Competition is optional, every Sunday starting in January. *L'Anse Creuse Middle School United is comprised of boys and girls from all four middle schools.*
- Crayola Epic Landmarks: World Wonders: Some places are so amazing, kids can hardly believe they are real. In this Crayola Creativity Club, children will explore incredible landmarks like the Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza, a fairy-tale castle inspired by Neuschwanstein Castle, the Great Wall of China, and the Taj Mahal. Students will discover how these famous places were built, why people still talk about them today, and what makes them so special. Every class brings a different project, so students are always making something special. All materials are included, and every class is guided step-by-step so kids can follow along, have fun, and feel proud of what they make. No experience is needed. *Available at Atwood, Carkenord, Graham, Green, Higgins, and South River.*

Join L'Anse Creuse and Shape the Future with us!

We are seeking passionate individuals who would like to make a difference in the lives of students.

Here at L'Anse Creuse, we are known for our “family” culture, and **everyone** is committed to the success of all students. Apply now and become part of a strong school district, surrounded by highly talented staff who work every day to provide the best education our future deserves!

The district is currently in need of the following positions:

- Part-time Music Teacher
- Part-time Science Teacher
- Substitute Teachers
- Special Education Teachers
- School Social Workers

- School Psychologists
- Paraprofessionals
- Noon-Aides
- SACC Aides
- Childcare/Preschool Aides
- Medical Aides
- Athletic Coaches
- Grounds & Maintenance

Scan the QR code or visit [lc-ps.org/departments/human-resources](https://www.lc-ps.org/departments/human-resources) to apply today!

Picture: Preschool teacher playing an educational game with her student.

The L'Anse Creuse News is published by Katelyn Hill, Community Relations Coordinator, for the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Community.

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