

# St. Francis School Newsletter

St. Francis Xavier School, with family partnership is dedicated to the development of the whole child through the spiritual and academic excellence of Catholic education.

February 23, 2024

## A message from our principal...

We are excited to host an SFX Family Night: Leap into Science on Thursday, February 29th. It will be open house format from 6:00-7:30 pm that evening. Our goal is to engage the whole family in fun educational experiences. Each grade will be hosting a different interactive Science station set up throughout the school. Students will pick up a guidebook as they enter the main foyer area of the school. As families visit and complete each station, you will receive a sticker or stamp as you try to complete all of the activities. Another feature you may have seen is our PTO will have a cake pop making station available. We hope you will be able to join us for Science Night.

Voters will be asked to consider renewing a millage on Tuesday, May 7th to provide monetary resources to the Char-Em ISD. We are including a millage fact sheet to inform you as voters of what the millage entails. I also want you to be aware that St. Francis Xavier School utilizes many beneficial services from Char Em ISD such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, support from teacher consultants, school psychologists, and social workers among others that provide "special education services" to our students. Please take a moment to review the Char Em millage fact sheet ahead of the upcoming vote.

As Spring approaches, preparations for the June 1st Gala Auction will be ramping up. It takes a collective effort from many volunteers to plan and carry out this important fundraising event. You may already be signed up with committees for a particular role towards the event planning - thank you! If you still need to fulfill your

volunteer hours towards the auction, please be on the lookout for an email communication in the coming weeks with the needs of the fundraising committee. With a school budget for the current year of \$1.8 million, fundraising accounts for close to 20 percent (\$350,000) of this budget. Tuition and the subsidy of the parish through tithing accounts for the remaining amount. We were able to reach our raffle ticket sales goals to keep us on target towards reaching our budget goal. Thank you for your part in all of our fundraising efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL RECIPIENTS



## 5th Grade Used Book Sale

Our 5th grade students will be having a gently used book sale March 4th - 8th, before school, during lunch and after school. Books are .50 for softcover and \$1 for hardcover and all money raised will support the 5th grade's trip to Fort Michilimackinac.

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## Referral Benefit

St. Francis Xavier School has been a fixture in the Petoskey community for generations. Our school opened in 1883. Many in our community first learned about our school because a family member attended, while for others it may have been learning about us by word of mouth. If you refer a new school family that enrolls a new student in first grade through eighth grade, and you are identified as the referring family on the registration form, you are eligible to receive a \$200 tuition credit for this referral (up to \$600 maximum). If you know anyone that should take a look at our school for their child's educational needs, tell them to schedule a tour by calling our school office at 231-347-3651.

## **2024-2025 Enrollment**

Parents of **new** students K-7 will need to sign the continuous enrollment policy which can be found on our website. With continuous enrollment, students will be automatically re-enrolled each year, reducing paperwork for our families, and aiding our school in projecting enrollment numbers for the upcoming school year. This only has to be done once for any child that is new to K-7. Please visit our website to provide your electronic signature as soon as possible.

Please check our website for priority enrollment dates, which begin 2/26, for CDC, PreK and DK. Paperwork is available on our website under prospective families.

## *FAMILY SERVICE HOURS*

We are in need of parent helpers during lunch recess daily from 11:20-12:25. There are only 67 more days of school left! Sign up by calling or emailing Mrs. Nathan in the office – [mnathan@petoskeysfx.org](mailto:mnathan@petoskeysfx.org). Parents will check in by buzzing the office at the main school doors.

All school families are required to provide 10 hours of service to the school each year, 4 of which are to be dedicated to the playground. The remaining 6 hours are to be committed to the Auction and/or PTO events.

To report your hours, email [hours@petoskeysfx.org](mailto:hours@petoskeysfx.org). In the subject line, provide your family name. In the message indicate the activity and note the amount of time for each volunteer activity.

## **LOOKING AHEAD...**

- 2/29 Science Night, 6-7:30
- 3/4-8 5th Grade Book Sale
- 3/10 Daylight Savings - Set ahead 1 hr
- 3/15 5th Grade Raffle & All School Non-Uniform
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/21 3rd Marking Period Ends
- 3/22 No School, Spring Break Begins
- 3/29 Good Friday
- 4/2 Return to School



# SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL MAY 2024

Voters will be asked on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024** to consider renewing the long-standing special education millage for Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District for four years.



**What's on the ballot?** If approved, the proposal would allow Char-Em ISD to continue to levy special education millage previously approved by voters. The proposed millage would be 1.4606 mills for four years, 2024-2027, generating approximately \$10.3 million for special education operational funding. For a home with a market value of \$100,000, it would continue to cost the taxpayer approximately \$75 per year.

## What special education services are provided throughout Char-Em ISD?

Char-Em ISD and local districts provide special education services that range in complexity and focus on academic, emotional, and functional achievement:

- More than 1,150 students with special needs in 11 public school districts and two charter academies are served each year.
- Children beginning at birth and until age 26 receive services.
- 16 special education classrooms, including 2 early childhood classrooms, are operated by Char-Em in 2.5 counties.
- 120 infants & toddlers with disabilities receive direct and classroom-based instruction.
- 109 students with significant educational needs attend ISD-operated classrooms.
- 750,000+ miles are traveled to transport students to 16 Char-Em ISD-operated special education classrooms with bus drivers and aides who are highly trained.
- 1,000 students with special needs attend school at their resident school district, with support from Char-Em ISD staff.

## How is special education funded?

Current special education costs throughout the ISD, 11 local districts, and 2 charter academies are about \$23.6 million. Special education millage operating dollars account for about half of the expenses of local districts' special education programs and most of the cost of ISD-operated programs. State, federal and other local dollars and grants support the remaining costs.

Funding from the special education millage goes directly to the local schools and academies to reimburse some of their special education expenses, as well as to the Char-Em ISD to support the 16 programs operated by the ISD that serve students with the most significant disabilities. It is also used for specialized training of teachers in local schools, evaluation services to determine eligibility for special education services, as well as highly specialized transportation services for students who attend Char-Em programs.

"This millage was originally approved by voters in 1981 and has been renewed every 4 years ever since.

This millage impacts the lives of thousands of students and their families in our region, from newborns to students up to age 26, including their lives beyond school. It provides critical services to students with disabilities in every school within Char-Em ISD."

**Scott Koziol,**  
Superintendent, Char-Em ISD

## Who is asked to vote in the Special Education Millage election?

Voters in the following school districts in Charlevoix, Emmet and northern Antrim counties: Alanson, Beaver Island, Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Central Lake, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Ellsworth, Harbor Springs, Pellston and Petoskey.

For more information, please contact  
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