



Chatfield News

September 8, 2025

Get ready to show your school spirit!

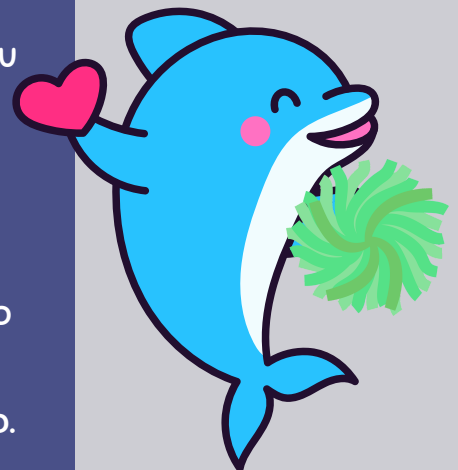
The Chatfield Dolphin Shop is officially open for business! You can find a variety of spirit wear items to help support our school.

[Select this link to shop!](#)

We want to highlight that the platform we're using, Zeffy, doesn't charge any fees, which means 100% of the profits go directly back to our school.

When you check out, you may notice an option to leave a tip. This is completely optional and can be adjusted to \$0.

Thank you for your support!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 30. To schedule your conference, please refer to your classroom newsletters, where you will find the SignUpGenius link. We kindly ask that you be punctual for your scheduled conference time. Additionally, please ensure you sign up with your child's homeroom teacher.

School Office Hours

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Chatfield office hours are from

7:30 am–4:00 pm

Attendance messages may be left at anytime by
calling (810)–667–8970



Parent-Student Handbook

[Please click here to access the 2025–26
parent–student handbook.](#)

School Pictures

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Picture Retake Day is Monday, September 22!

To streamline the ordering process, each student received a picture form on picture day containing their personal information and a unique ordering code. We kindly ask that you use this personalized code when ordering your child's pictures to ensure accuracy and efficiency.

[Select this link to order your pictures.](#)



Chatfield Partners in Education

Please consider participating in your child's education by attending the next P.I.E. meeting scheduled for **Thursday, September 11** at 4:00 pm in the middle school commons. Childcare is available.

President: Tina Hall
Vice President: Crystal Pekarek
Secretary: Arielle Stimson
Treasurer: Audrey Brady
Trustee: Erin Sawgle



P.I.E. Sales

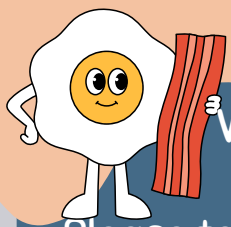
Ice Cream Sale
During Lunch!
\$1.00

Monday,
September 29



Popcorn Sale
\$1.00
Friday,
September 19





Chatfield Breakfast & Hot Lunch

We are excited to announce that breakfast and lunch will continue to be FREE until September 30!



Please take a moment to complete the School Meals and Summer EBT Application sent home with your child the evening of your child's grade level openhouse and return one form per family to school. This form collects information needed to ensure Chatfield School receives state and federal funding for several educational programs.

[Select this link to access the form.](#)

If your child arrives at school late, please ensure they bring a cold lunch with them. Hot lunch orders are submitted by 9 am, and we want to make sure every child has a meal they enjoy. Please make sure to call their lunch order into the office ahead of time. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Milk Money

Attention parents and guardians, there is a \$0.50 charge for milk only. You have the option to add money to your child's account to cover the cost of milk. You can do so by sending in a check or cash with your child, or by making a payment online through the Chatfield website.



Excellent Parent Resource "Survival Skills for the Real World" A Love & Logic Resource

Love & Logic is a widely respected approach that empowers parents, educators, and professionals with practical tools for raising responsible and empathetic children. This philosophy centers around the belief that children learn best through experience and natural consequences, fostering decision-making skills and self-confidence. By maintaining a balance of empathy and accountability, Love & Logic encourages adults to set limits, offer choices within limits, and guide children towards understanding the outcomes of their actions.

Throughout the school year, our newsletter will feature an article from Love & Logic that can be used by you as a helpful parenting resource!

[Select this link to check out: "Survival Skills for the Real World"](#)

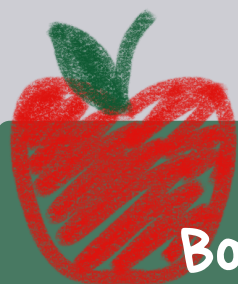


Save the Date!

Chatfield Fall Festival

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Join us for an unforgettable day at Chatfield's Fall Festival on October 18 from 12:00 to 3:00 PM! Hosted by P.I.E. (Partners in Education), this fun-filled event promises to be a fantastic opportunity for families to come together and celebrate our school community. More information will be coming soon!



Chatfield School Board Meeting Dates

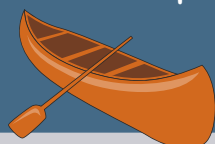
Below is a link to a document containing the dates for our upcoming board meetings.

[Please select this link to view the board meeting dates.](#)

7th Grade Canoe Trip

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Attention 7th Grade Students and Parents, We are excited to announce the upcoming 7th grade canoe trips! Mrs. Fennelly's class will be heading out on September 10th, while Mrs. Logan's class will embark on their adventure on September 11th. Permission slips were distributed the evening of the middle school open house. Please complete and return the form promptly.



Discover Scouting

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Join Pack 126 for an exciting journey into the world of Scouting! Open to boys and girls in grades Kindergarten through 5th, Scouting offers a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills, make friends, and embark on thrilling adventures. Don't miss the chance to sign up at The Chatfield School on Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 pm.

[For more information, click here!](#)



Introducing Chatfield's Special Education Coordinator

It is an honor to serve the Chatfield School in the new role of a Special Education Coordinator. In addition, I am thrilled to continue being the case manager and provider of specialized instruction for students in 4th and 5th grades.

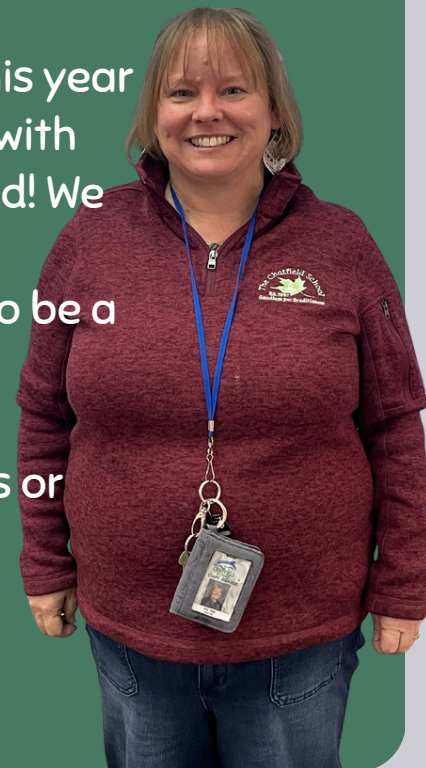
Many people are asking me, what does the role of a special education coordinator entail? Special education coordinators have three main responsibilities:

- The responsibility to maintain ongoing compliance with Federal and State laws and regulations for evaluations, special education students and programs/services.
- Collaborate and engage with staff and families as a means of support and communication.
- Ensure effective teamwork, collaboration, and communication among staff.

I look forward to continuing my work with students this year as well as partnering with parents and collaborating with teachers as we work to serve ALL students at Chatfield! We have amazing staff who are dedicated to the work of helping each child learn and grow and I am honored to be a part of this team.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns in regards to special education matters.

Sincerely
Sheena May





Thursday,
September 18,
5:30-6:30 pm

Grandparents or Special Guest Evening

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We are delighted to invite grandparents and special guests to a heartfelt evening at Chatfield designed to celebrate your unwavering love and support. Join us for an exclusive tour of our wonderful facilities, where you can witness firsthand the environment that nurtures and educates your cherished family members. After the tour, indulge in yummy snacks prepared just for you. It's our way of saying thank you for all the warmth and encouragement you provide. We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and creating cherished memories together.

Interested in donating a snack or fruit tray for this event? Please visit [this link to a sign-up genius](#). All donations are greatly appreciated!



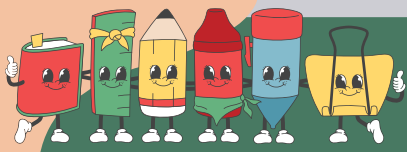
I-Scream, You Scream, We ALL Scream for Ice Cream!

We are excited to invite you to a delightful evening at Blend for a frozen yogurt ice cream treat in support of Chatfield School!

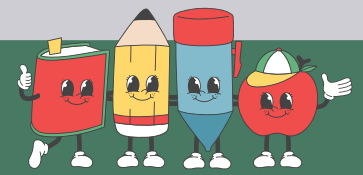
Join us at BLEND on Thursday, September 18th, from 5-8 pm following Grandparents/Special Guest evening. This event is a PIE (Partners in Education) fundraiser, and it's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some delicious frozen yogurt while contributing to our school community. Bring along your grandparents or special guests and make some sweet memories together.

We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your support!





School Security



To ensure the safety and security of all our students, we use a guest lanyard system for anyone visiting the building during the school day from 8:20–3:35. Any guest who will have direct contact with students must undergo a background check. Additionally, all visitors will be required to sign in at the office to receive a "guest" lanyard. This measure is designed to help us easily identify authorized visitors and maintain a safe environment for our students. Please see the Parent–Student Handbook for more details regarding policies.

[Select this link for the Volunteer/Visitor Form.](#)

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to student safety.

Field Trips & Parent Drivers

If you are interested in driving on your child's field trips, it's important to complete the volunteer form provided by the school. This ensures that all necessary information is gathered and that you are officially recognized as a volunteer.

[Select this link for a copy of the Volunteer Form.](#) This form only needs to be filled out once and every three years.

Additionally, to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, all drivers are required to undergo a background check. This process helps the school maintain a secure environment and ensures that only qualified individuals are entrusted with the responsibility of transporting children. Your cooperation and understanding in completing these steps are greatly appreciated and contribute to a positive and safe experience for everyone involved.



Latchkey

We want to remind all parents that it is essential to complete the necessary paperwork for the Latchkey program. This ensures that your child is registered and can benefit from the program without any interruptions. We kindly ask that you fill out the forms before your child attends the Latchkey sessions.

[Paperwork can be picked up in the main office or you may select this link for registration papers.](#)

[Select this link for additional required paperwork.](#)

[Select this link for the final registration form.](#)

If you have any questions or need assistance with the paperwork, please do not hesitate to reach out via email to Jodi Smith at: jsmith@chatfieldschool.org.

We've got spirit, yes we do!
We've got spirit, how about you?
It's Chatfield Spirit Week!
September 15-19

Monday, September 15th, students can start their week with comfort on **Pajama Day**, where cozy attire is the name of the game.

Tuesday, September 16th, dive into the past with **1980's Day**, embracing bold colors, big hair, and iconic fashion from the decade.

Wednesday, September 17th, brings **Wacky Hair Day**, where students can let their imaginations run wild with unique and outrageous hairstyles.

Thursday, September 18th, is **Sports Team Day**, a chance to showcase your favorite team's gear and cheer for your champions.

End the week with a burst of school pride on Friday, September 19th, for **Chatfield Spirit Day**, where students can proudly wear their school colors: Green and Blue!



Chatfield's Builders Club

Builders Club is a student-led service organization for middle school students. Members in this program are students who are interested in service to their school, community, and world. The local Morning Kiwanis Club of Lapeer serves as the Builders Club sponsor. Mrs. Bierbusse will act as the Builders Club advisor and will attend all Builders Club meetings. Lapeer High School's Key Club members will help lead club meetings and mentor Chatfield's middle school students as they work side-by-side to serve our community.

Meetings will be conducted at Chatfield School in Mrs. Bierbusse's classroom at 3:45–4:30 pm beginning Monday, September 15.

[For a complete list of tentative meeting dates and the permission slip to attend, please select this link.](#)



Help Wanted!

It's almost cider time for Chatfield School students! We need your help picking apples!

All Chatfield families are invited to join us on Saturday, September 13th, at Hy's Cider Mill located at 6350 37 Mile Road, from 3:30 to 5 pm.

Last year, our dedicated crew managed to pick an impressive 15 bushels in just over an hour, and we're hoping to top that record with your help this time around! Please let Peter McCreedy know if you can participate by sending an email to pmccreedy@chatfieldschool.org. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and making new memories.





Chatfield Fall Sports Update

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Middle School Fall Sports 2025 In Partnership with
Lapeer Community Schools
Contact Information

Rich Cross
Associate Principal – Zemmer 8/9 Campus
Middle School Athletic Director
richard.cross@lapeerschools.org
810.538.2438 (ext. 222348)

Paula Hall
Attendance/Athletics Secretary – Zemmer Campus
paula.hall@lapeerschools.org

Susana Escamilla
Attendance/Athletics Secretary – Rolland-Warner
Campus: susana.escamilla@lapeerschools.org

***ALL MS FALL SPORTS PRACTICES BEGIN ON MONDAY,
AUGUST 25TH*** (first day of school)

***ALL MS FALL SPORTS CONTESTS BEGIN THE WEEK OF
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH



The Beaver Dash Bash

We invite you to participate in the 5th annual Beaver Dash Bash, a lively event taking place on September 20th at Oakdale Trails. This event promises excitement for all ages with professionally timed 5k and 10k trail runs, and challenging 12 and 23-mile mountain bike courses, along with kid-friendly races. Enjoy a day filled with fun, food trucks, a beer tent, and various vendors. The Beaver Dash Bash is organized by Crank 4 A Cause, with all proceeds going to the Friends of Oakdale Trails to enhance and extend our beloved trails.

Recently, Chatfield benefited from a \$700 grant from the Crank 4 A Cause Youth Outdoor Recreation fund, which was used to purchase new snowshoe straps!

[Select this link for more information & to register.](#)

Coaches and Contact Info

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MS Fall Sports Coaches Contact Info

7th Football – Lenny Gosciniak –
leonard.gosciniak@lapeerschools.org



8th Football – Phil Widzinski –
philip.widzinski@lapeerschools.org

MS Girls Cross Country – Ken Baginski –
kenneth.baginski@lapeerschools.org

MS Boys Cross Country –
John McCreedy –
john.mccreedy@lapeerschools.org

Cross Country is open to all girls and
boys in grades 6–8!



Chatfield Volleyball Update

Volleyball is underway
for girls in grades 5–8.

Practices started
August 19.



JOIN THE FUN!



REGISTER NOW BEFORE THE NEW SEASON

www.lapeernflflag.com

Grab your cleats and do your stretches - NFL FLAG is officially here.

And we couldn't be more ready for it.

It is not too late to register for the Fall Season.

**Register Now - league play runs
September, 14th through October, 19th**



Chatfield Student Farmer Co-op Program



The Chatfield Student Farmer Co-op is a unique family partnership aimed at engaging students in the rewarding responsibility of caring for our school farm during non-school hours. Occasionally, during weekends, vacations, and special programs, Peter may be unavailable and we will need your assistance.

By joining our call list, you can be contacted based on your availability to help with various tasks, such as caring for pigs and chickens, watering plants, hosting special events, and selling our student-made goods. Your support is crucial in providing this very special learning opportunity for our students and helping them gain valuable skills and experiences.

Thank you for being a part of our community and contributing to the growth and success of our school farm!

If your student is interested in signing up to be placed on the call list, please select this link to complete a Google form.



Bike Club

"A Fall Season Adventure League"



The first Bike Club of the season will be held on Monday, September 8th, from 3:45 to 4:45 PM. This club is free and open to any student in grades 4–8, and parents and non-Chatfield students are also welcome to join. Students in 3rd grade or younger can participate if accompanied by a parent. Most of our riding will take place on the Oakdale trail system, which features 9.5 miles of singletrack with no road crossings and offers fantastic terrain to explore. Bikes can be stored on the bike rack near the gym or parked by the Willows if brought to school beforehand. Helmets are mandatory, and we have loaners available.

The Bike Club will run for approximately 8 weeks.

For any questions, please contact Peter McCreedy at pmccreedy@chatfieldschool.org. Weekly participation is not mandatory, but registration is required to join.

To register, please select this link to complete a Google form.





The Facts and Research on Cell Phones and Personal Device Usage Among Children

More and more schools are choosing to ban cell phones from the classroom. Some states have even elected to ban cell phones from bell to bell ([Select this link to see which states](#)). Why?

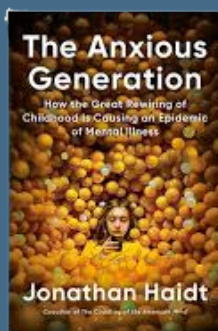
Each newsletter will contain new information and insight. We encourage all parents to take a moment to read the hard truths.

Problem #1: Social Deprivation

The Anxious Generation discusses how phones have negatively affected social relationships of children. Children used to spend a significant amount of time after school with their friends, but that time drastically decreased around 2018. Haidt writes, “teens at the time might not have thought they were losing their friends; they thought they were just moving the friendship from real life to Instagram, Snapchat, and online video games. Isn’t that just as good? No... teens who spend more time using social media are more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, and other disorders, while teens who spend more time with groups of young people (such as playing team sports or participating in religious communities) have better mental health.”

In addition, children who are hanging out with their friends are often interrupted or ignored when someone receives a notification from their phone. You can picture it: (or perhaps have done this yourself) you are in the middle of a conversation with someone when they pull out their phone and begin typing away leaving you feeling less important than whatever is happening on their phone. This bothers me as an adult, but “just imagine being a teen trying to develop a sense of who you are and where you fit, while everyone you meet tells you, indirectly: You’re not as important as the people on my phone.”

Source: Maneuvering the Middle



“My central claim in this book is that these two trends—overprotection in the real world and underprotection in the virtual world—are the major reasons why children born after 1995 became the anxious generation.”

— Jonathan Haidt, *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*

[Select this link for more information about the book, *Anxious Generation*.](#)



Community Resources

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if you're looking for assistance or support, **dialing 211** can be a valuable resource. This service connects individuals and families with a wide range of community resources, including housing assistance, food programs, healthcare services, state emergency relief, DHS, and more. Available in many regions, 211 is a confidential and free service that operates 24/7, making it accessible whenever you need help. Whether you're facing a crisis or simply need information about local services, 211 can guide you to the help you need. Don't hesitate to reach out and connect with the resources available in your community.

Additional Resources:

Holiday Depot Gift Center

Location: 110 West Park Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

Contact: (810) 834-7507

First Presbyterian Church of Lapeer

Location: 433 North Calhoun Street, Lapeer, MI 48446

Contact: (810) 664-8565

Linked Hearts

Location: 5595 Main Street, Dryden, MI 48428

Contact: (810) 796-3407

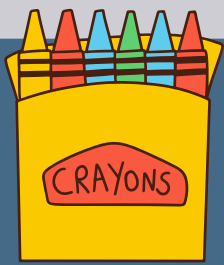
Hispanic Service Center

Location: 113 North Almont Avenue, Imlay City, MI 48444

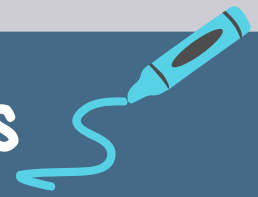
Contact: (810) 724-3665

These centers offer various support services, and contacting them directly will provide more specific assistance tailored to your needs.





Mark your Calendars



- Grandparents Evening or Special Guest, Thursday, September 18
- Picture Retake Day, Monday, September 22
- Parent-Teacher Conferences, Thursday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 30
- Half-day, Friday, September 26, Dismissal @ 11:30
- No School, Friday, October 10
- End of First Marking Period, 1/2 Day, Friday, October 24, Dismissal @ 11:30
- Trunk-or-Treat, Friday, October 31
- No School, Monday, November 3

Select this link for the
2025-26 Chatfield School
Calendar.

SLOW

Drop-off and Pick-up Reminder

SLOW

The beginning of the school year can indeed be a hectic time, with busy schedules and crowded areas, especially in school zones. It's crucial to exercise patience in the parking lot, as many students and parents are navigating the same space. Be mindful of your speed, adhering strictly to the posted limits to ensure the safety of everyone around.

Additionally, always be vigilant for pedestrians, particularly young children who may not always be aware of their surroundings. By practicing patience and caution, we can all contribute to a safer, more organized environment at the start of the school year.

Select this link for specific drop-off and pick-up instructions.



231 Lake Drive
Lapeer, MI 48446
810.667.8970
www.chatfieldschool.org

