Dear Lake Shore Public Schools Community:

Excellence in teaching deserves to be recognized. Lake Shore Public Schools proudly announces the following 2019 Teachers of the Year: Paula Crippen, Masonic Heights Elementary; Kelli Herr, Rodgers Elementary; Jennifer Rafferty, Violet Elementary; Mary Stahl, Kennedy Middle School; Matthew Smith, Lake Shore High School. These educators are recognized for their excellence in content knowledge, classroom management, and passion. They inspire our students by awakening belief in self, manifesting...
talents, and being the light.

Thank you to all 212 educators at Lake Shore Public Schools for being superhuman. You influence our youth in the most powerful way.

**Featured Event**

You are invited to our 10th Annual Taste Fest, our football fundraiser. Guests will be able to enjoy a smorgasbord from over 20 favorite restaurants including salted caramel brownies, potato soup, barbecue ribs, candy bar, chicken wings, pizza, and ice cream while the football team provides exceptional service. The event is scheduled on Sunday, March 3rd from 1:00-5:00 pm at Athena Hall. Watch this [promo video](#) to learn more about the event.

Tickets are $15 in advance, $20 at door. $5 donation for 7 years old and younger. To purchase tickets in advance, contact the LSQB Club at (586) 246-4108.

![Taste Fest Poster](image_url)

**Paula Crippen, Masonic Heights Elementary**

*What do you teach?*

Fifth Grade
How long have you been in education?

23 years

Describe your instructional design process.

The instructional design in my classroom has definitely changed over the years. There has been a digital revolution and that has allowed me to develop and grow as a teacher in today’s society. My role in the classroom is to be a facilitator linking classroom study to real-world applications. Each day we are using our chromebooks to link instruction and technology. This year we were able to have 1:1 for each student. Students are able to access Schoology to reinforce lessons and parents are able to see what I am teaching. Having this opportunity is huge and allows me as an educator to focus on project based learning and cooperative learning amongst each other. With the wave of technology in my classroom, the set up has also changed. With so much collaborative work students have access to move around and work in various spaces in the room. There are tables to work at, comfy chairs to sit in, bean bags, and comfy floor pillows that enable students to work in comfort. I’ve noticed that this environment is helpful when working both individually and in groups. By giving my students the opportunity to move around, it has provided more of an ownership of both group and individual work. My students know how they work best. Some students still prefer to stay in their desk, while others know that the movement is what they need. I offer a choice for everyone who learns differently and finds success in different ways.

Kelli Herr, Rodgers Elementary
What do you teach?
Great Start Readiness Preschool

How long have you been in education?
26 years

Why and how do you advocate for public education?
Technology is at the hands of most people, whether it is a tablet, phone, or computer. Using the many forms of social media, I post many photos, tips, and quotes promoting public education. I am a huge advocate of early childhood and have been for 20+ years. Early childhood should be one of our biggest investments because the children are our future. They will be our next presidents, health care providers, teachers, engineers, etc. Every child deserves a fair and equal opportunity at achieving their dreams. Children will benefit for years to come if we as educators advocate for them beginning in the early years. Children that attend early education do better in school, stay in school longer, and have better social, language and problem solving skills. I want those types of children running our world in the future. I have gone into our community and promoted early education in our public parks, library, during holiday parades, and during summer vacation. I am invested in public education as it has many advantages that support learning. Public education has higher teacher qualifications, more academic and extra-curricular activities and services to help children in need. When I’m out in the public and on social media I advocate for public education for those reasons and more.
Jennifer Rafferty, Violet Elementary

What do you teach?
Teacher Consultant/Title I

How long have you been in education?
21 years

Describe yourself.

I have been a special education teacher since 1997. My bachelor's degree is in Cognitive Impairments and elementary education from Wayne State. My master's degree is in Learning Disabilities and Emotional Impairments from Saginaw Valley. I taught at Marine City High School for four years before joining Lake Shore in 2001, teaching at Kennedy Middle School. In 2007 I moved to Violet and taught in the Resource Room for many years before becoming the Teacher Consultant in 2013. I get to work with our fabulous Title I staff coordinating reading and math support, focusing on early intervention. This year I've been able to work with our speech and language pathologist, going into our kindergarten classrooms focusing on phonemic awareness and other pre-reading skills. A big part of my position is working with both our special education and general education teachers focusing on early intervention, identification, assessments, reviewing data, and ensuring quality education for all! I feel very fortunate to be at Violet. I love our staff and our students. We have the best team! I feel connected to the whole district as both of my children attended Rodgers, then Kennedy Middle School. They both had great teachers and experiences. My daughter Allison graduated from Lake Shore High School last year and my son Ian is now a freshman. Even my husband Mike graduated from Lake Shore!
Mary Stahl, Kennedy Middle School

What do you teach?

Teacher Consultant/Title I

How long have you been in education?

20 years

Describe your idea of an equitable classroom. What have you done to ensure equity in your classroom?

As a teacher Consultant it is my job to make sure that the students that are in special education at Kennedy Middle School are receiving a Free Appropriate Public Education. I must make sure that their IEPs are being followed and properly implemented. It is my responsibility that my students are given the same opportunities as the general education students to reach the curriculum. If a student is given the same opportunities as the general education students and they fail short; it's up to me to make sure that I collaborate with the teacher and the student providing strategies that will help with them to successfully attain the grade level standards. It is important that all students are supported and encouraged to work to their potential regardless of their strengths and weaknesses. They must be recognized for the work they have completed as this is what builds self-esteem and gives them the incentive to increase ownership and
productivity in their education. Although I do not have a classroom, I do have an office and my idea of being equitable is being open minded when a teacher has recommendations for their students with a disability to help them reach the grade level curriculum. As stated before my classroom is Kennedy Middle School and my office offers a setting for all teachers that are new and experienced to express their concerns of students that are not making progress. There is a discussion of the interventions and the accommodations that are being implemented, and a review of the student's IEP. As a team we collaborate and determine what adjustments need to be made to assist in the learning of their students. One of the paths to successes for our students with a learning disability is to be supportive and open with both general and special education teachers. Education is a two way street, the giving and taking of ideas, suggestions, and supports that will tap into the students' intellectual capabilities which in turn will encourage them to take ownership of their learning that will lead them to a bright and productive future.

Matthew Smith, Lake Shore High School

What do you teach?
Vocal Music

How long have you been in education?
10 years
Describe the ways you have improved your practice and the impact it has had on teaching and learning.

I have improved as a teacher over the last ten years because I know that my students are teaching me just as much as I am teaching them each and every day. I empower my students with the knowledge that they are in charge of their learning and progress; they will only become as good as hard as they work. In music, there is much more than just the individual product from each student: there is the coming together and joining their efforts for one common sound as an ensemble. I have really worked on putting more on the individual student in preparation and learning of music; it takes longer in the beginning, but the final product is stronger and much more understood by the students. When I first started as a choir teacher, I was not as student-centered in my instruction as I am now and I can see a large difference in each student’s and ensemble’s sound and the fluency in their music. When students are able to lead their rehearsals because they have the tools to build their knowledge, it makes it easier to make deeper connections to the music; we are able to make music and not just sing notes on the pages which is very powerful for the students and the audiences that enjoy their performances. I am very passionate about working with my students, and I am humbled and honored to make music with students day in and day out. Anyone who has seen me work or perform with my students can see how much passion I have for what we do and how it has been instilled in the students as well.

Upcoming Events
February 28
Kennedy Middle School MSBOA Band Festival @ 3:00 pm

March 1
Lake Shore High School Internship Celebration Breakfast @ 8:30 am

March 2
District Indian Education Public Hearing @ 9:00 am
Chinese Field Trip to DIA @ 10:25 am
Rodgers Elementary Rocketeers at LCA @ 12:00 pm

March 3
District Shorian Taste Fest @ 1:00 pm

March 5
Kennedy Middle School Food Demonstration

March 8
Elementary/KMS Records Day - Half Day for Students

March 9
Masonic Heights Elementary Fair @ 11:00 am
Rodgers Elementary Fair @ 11:00 am
Macomb County Annual Secondary Student Art Show @ 2:00 pm

March 10
District Regional Spelling Bee @ 1:00 pm

March 12
Violet Elementary Food Demonstration

March 13
District Early Release Day
Lake Shore High School Food Demonstration
Lake Shore High School 1st Hour Exam
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For more information on our District Calendar Events, please visit this webpage.