

## Safety and Security Concerns Addressed

School safety has been a growing concern in communities across the country. Recent acts of school violence addressed through the media have kept school safety in the forefront of public attention. As of April 20, there have been 20 school shootings causing injury or death throughout 2018. The Mattawan School administration, along with local law enforcement, have been reviewing the safety of our students and looking for ways to keep our schools more secure.

Currently, The Mattawan School campus is equipped with security cameras positioned at all four of the schools. The camera system allows school officials and law enforcement the capabilities to view potential and past issues both inside and outside of the schools. However, the camera system at the main entrances of the schools captures a limited view of student and visitor's faces. The security of the students and staff would be heightened by replacing the current camera system at the main entrances with a camera system that would capture a person's full body as they approach the buildings. This would allow school officials the capability to detect weapons that a person might be carrying in hand or concealing on their body.

Furthermore, adding additional swipe cards at secondary entrances and installing sensors in the school office would ensure that all exterior doors are closed and locked throughout the day. Swipe cards allow authorized personnel to enter the building and sensors would immediately alert administration to doors left ajar.

Finally, when evaluating the school's windows (both interior and exterior), it has become apparent that windows can be shattered, allowing entry into the school and classrooms. There is also a risk of injury to students and staff by broken glass. Installing 3M window safety film helps protect the glass in the event of sudden impact. The security film would hold the shape of the glass frame and prevent it from breaking apart and falling, thus preventing injury.

The security measures mentioned above, along with the measures already in place, would improve the overall safety of the Mattawan students and teachers.

*Marcus Hamre,  
Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Deputy  
Mattawan Consolidated School Resource Officer*

## Roads and Roofs: The Condition and Needs of an Aging Campus

Living in Michigan, road repair is required annually due to winter frost and water in the cracks which freezes and thaws causing breaks in the surface. Our campus roadways and parking lots are no different. Mattawan spends between \$12,000-\$15,000 per year patching and crack filling. This amount does not include re-lining. A representative from a local large asphalt company said that Michigan roads should be resurfaced about every 15 years along with the regular maintenance and crack filling. The resurfacing process of grinding down the top inch will buy some time but typically the life expectancy of a road is about 20 years before replacement is necessary. Most of the roads and parking lots at the Middle School and High School campus are 25+ years old. We continue to patch and refill cracks.



The roads leading in and out of Mattawan High School and Middle School have been patched and filled numerous times over the years. *Photos provided by Infinite Aerial Media.*

Our roofs on the Middle School and High School are flat roofs with a single membrane (layer) PVC product that had a warranty of 15 years. The roofs are inspected regularly by our staff along with a roofing service technician for cracks and damage. UV light, heat, cold and age cause the product to develop spider cracks and the breakdown of the PVC material. The result is leaks. You can have a leak inside the building in one location but the actual hole could be in an entirely different area and the water is then running to a lower point after soaking through 3" of insulation. The repair work (patching) is ongoing because all of our roofs are now out of warranty except for the recent new construction. Our last warranty expired in 2017 and a number of other roofs had warranties that expired prior to that as early as 2012. There are multiple leaks evident inside the buildings causing stained ceiling tiles (\$8-\$10 per tile for replacement) and the need for buckets throughout the buildings.



Roofs atop Mattawan High School and Middle School are out of warranty and are marked throughout with areas of patches and caulk.

*Russ Young, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Mattawan Consolidated School*

# Updating Technology, Districtwide

Mattawan Consolidated School has been extremely appreciative of the iPads, MacBooks and other devices which have been purchased with proceeds from past school district bonds. These devices are used daily to support technology in-



tegration in the classroom for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and access to content.

It has been a great testament to the Apple products we have purchased to have been able



to keep so many of our devices in service for so long. A good portion of our laptops have been in service for over nine years. However, time is no longer on our side, as many of our devices have exceeded, or are nearing, the end of their useful life.

Beginning this year, many of our older devices are no longer supported by Apple, and by 2019 40% of our laptop inventory will be obsolete. We have been able to extend the life of these devices by performing Apple Certified in-house repairs and maintenance and by upgrading the laptops' memory and storage space.

Our iPads are also becoming obsolete and 36% of our iPad inventory will no longer be able to be updated or supported by Apple in 2019.

If approved by the voters, this bond would allow the school district to refresh and replace this technology equipment.

*Tony Nuismer, Director of Technology  
Mattawan Consolidated School*

Later Elementary School students use Macbooks during a technology class in these June 2017 photos.

# New Team Rooms and Public Restrooms would Replace Portables and Porta-Potties

For as long as I can remember, and I've been here for 19 years, Mattawan has had to use portables and porta-potties for some of their ath-

letic teams and fans," said Athletic Department Secretary Sue Jaques. Football and lacrosse teams have had to use portables as team rooms for home games. The baseball and softball teams have never had team rooms and have always had to use porta-potties for their fans and players.

The bond proposal would add a team room facility that offers a visitor team room, a home team room, two public restrooms, and a small concession stand. It will be built behind the home football stands for easy access to the football, lacrosse, baseball, and softball fields.



Currently, porta-potties and portable buildings are utilized for many Mattawan and visiting sports teams.

# Early Childhood Educational Center is Considered Following Research, Survey Results and Facility Availability

Back in 2008, the Mattawan Consolidated School District and community came together to work through a comprehensive strategic plan for the District. One of the results of the discussions was the desire for a preschool program for our youngest learners. At that time, Mattawan did not have the facility to provide this service. When a survey was sent out to our community members and staff for the 2014 vote, the request for a preschool program was again brought forward. Mattawan still did not have the facility to provide this educational service. With the completion of the new Elementary Campus, we now have room to consider this ongoing request.

In addition to the requests from our community and staff, we looked at educational factors that would support an early childhood educational center. On October 6, 2016, Governor Snyder signed the Third Grade Reading bill into law. This bill was aimed at improving childhood literacy, and was based on research showing that literacy after third grade is a key predictor of student academic success. Children who are not reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely than their peers to not graduate high school (Hernandez, 2011; NAEP, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013).

Early identification of children who are at risk for learning issues can improve a student's likelihood of success.

Improvements include:

- Universal preschool
- Use of early screenings & diagnostic evaluations
- Early identification and support for children struggling with learning and behavioral difficulties and disabilities

(Corella & Horowitz, 2014)

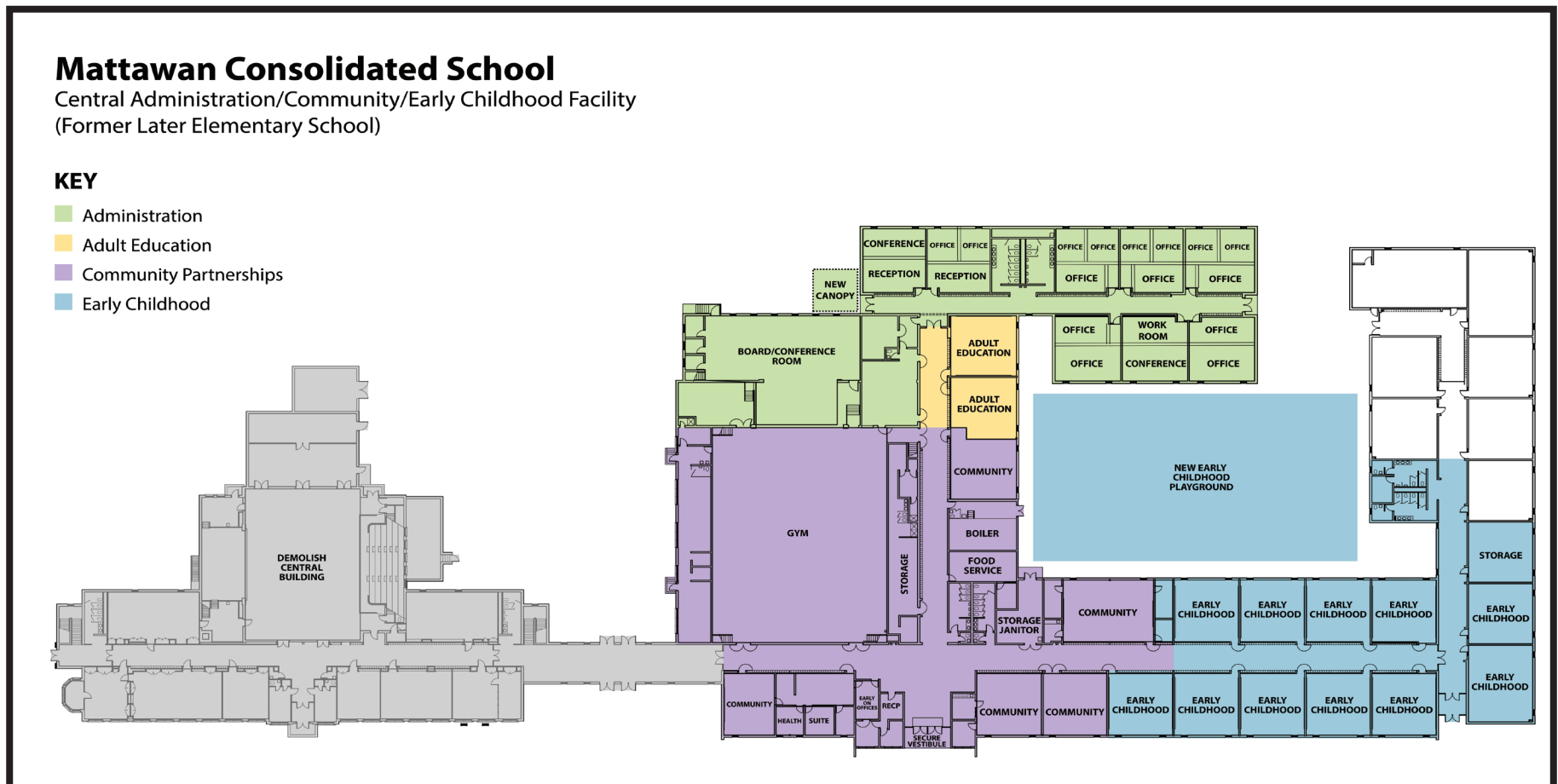
After two weeks of baseline testing in the fall of 2017, Mattawan found approximately 300 students kindergarten through 2nd grade who were not currently proficient in reading for their grade level and required additional supports and interventions. Providing prereading skills and interventions at an earlier age would help our young students to begin their kindergarten year with a head start on their reading. Early intervention may also reduce the need for specialized instructional support during a child's school years.

We looked at offering an early childhood educational center through the lens of school readiness and family supports. I have had the opportunity to visit a school-based health center housed in

Bangor Middle School. This health center offered supports in the areas of mental health, trauma, nursing services, and a social worker. There are health centers housed in schools throughout Michigan. I have been working with our senators and representatives as well as active advocates for providing school districts with health and mental health services through centers housed right on campus. By renovating one of our existing vacant buildings, we would have room for a School-Based Health Center. Housing it in the Early Childhood Educational Center would add additional services to our students and families, beginning with our youngest learners.

The Early Childhood Educational Center would provide educational classrooms for three year olds, four year olds, and young five year olds (Four Young Fives classrooms are currently housed in the Early Elementary). This would allow us to provide an educational, age-appropriate program with a focus on the unique needs of young learners. The preschool (3 and 4 year olds) would be a tuition-based program.

*Superintendent, Dr. Robin K. Buchler  
Mattawan Consolidated School*



A proposed floorplan illustrates what a remodeled vacant Later Elementary School would become if voters approve it.

# Renovations would offer Community Space for Three Charitable Organizations currently serving Mattawan Students and Families

Mattawan Consolidated School (MCS) and the Mattawan community are very fortunate to have such generous, caring organizations to support the families in Mattawan. Students and families at the school are supported by three particular organizations: Supplies for Success, Mattawan Food Packs Programs, and the Mattawan Food Pantry.



Supplies for Success helps the students and families of MCS with new or gently used clothing. It is a volunteer organization that helps the children at the Mattawan Early and Later Elementary, Middle and High Schools by providing appropriate school clothing. “By caring for their basic needs, we encourage self-esteem and promote academic success. Our goal is to give these children the confidence they need to succeed and to relieve economic stress on their parents” (<http://www.supplies-for-success.org/>). Supplies for Success is currently renting one of the old portables behind the vacant Later Elementary.

hind the vacant Later Elementary.

The Mattawan Food Packs Program is currently renting one of the old portables behind the vacant Later Elementary. If you drive by their building, you will see their mission, proudly displayed on a sign on the portable: “Building a stronger Mattawan community, one student at a time by providing food packs to students who are at risk of going hungry over the weekends.”

From their website: Mattawan Food Packs is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization which supports students who are at risk of going hungry over the weekends throughout the school year in the Mattawan Consolidated School District. We directly serve 184 students (and counting) among the Early EL, Later EL, Middle School and High School. Every Friday each student receives a food pack filled with healthy, kid-friendly meal and snack items that provide nutritional support on the weekends. We also give each family in the program a weekly voucher to redeem

for one gallon of milk at Wagoner’s Hometown Food Store in Mattawan. Hygiene packs are also distributed twice throughout the school year” (<https://www.mattawanfoodpacks.org/about>).

Mattawan Area Pantry is a new non-profit organization that exists to serve the Mattawan School District by providing food for those in need. The Pantry serves families within the Mattawan Consolidated School District. This includes Mattawan School families in Kalamazoo County, Paw Paw, and Lawton areas. They generously serve approximately 100 families a month and 175 students weekly ([mattawanareapantry.blogspot.com](http://mattawanareapantry.blogspot.com)).

With the renovation of the vacant Later Elementary building, these three generous organizations would further partner with the school district by renting space inside the building.

**Mattawan Area Pantry**



*neighbors helping neighbors*



A proposed site plan illustrates what would become of the old elementary school buildings and surrounding areas of campus.