

January 2025

KENNEDY NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year, and welcome back! January is a time for a fresh start, and we are excited to embark on another successful semester of learning and growth with your child. Throughout the month, we will highlight the importance of being kind to others, showing respect, and practicing empathy. Our students are learning how simple acts of kindness—like sharing a compliment or helping a classmate—can make a big difference in making our school a warm and welcoming place for everyone. We encourage you to talk with your child about how they can show kindness at school and home.

A Few Helpful Reminders

Winter Weather: As the weather gets colder and stays that way, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. We encourage layers, hats, gloves, and boots. Please contact the office if you need assistance with any of these items.

Snow Day/Cancellation: Now that the snowy winter months are here, the chance for a snow day cancellation of school increases. The district will send out a robocall to each household when a cancellation occurs; you can also find our listing on the local TV stations, various radio stations, and online on the school's Facebook page. If you do not receive a robocall or need to update the phone number, please call the school office.

Tardy Policy: We understand that mornings can be rushed, but please make every effort to have your child arrive at school on time. Class begins promptly at 7:50 AM, and being late can disrupt their learning and the class—plan for longer commute times in the winter.

Let's make this new year a time of growth, kindness, and positive change! Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this a wonderful start to 2025.

Warm regards,
Shelly VanVoorst

[HTTPS://WWW.MANISTEEMARINERS.ORG/](https://www.manistee-mariners.org/)

Punctuality Matters

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

5 MINUTES

Late Each Day

= 3 Days

Off In Total



Stay Warm!

Staff Highlight



Nichole Weaver, a second-year teacher at Kennedy Elementary, credits her passion for teaching to her early experiences working with children. "I have always really enjoyed working with kids," she explains, noting that her volunteer work throughout high school allowed her to connect with younger students. However, it wasn't until her senior year, during a job shadow in Josh Smith's third-grade classroom, that she realized teaching was a natural talent for her. "It was then that I really fell in love with helping students learn. Nothing made me happier than seeing students' eyes light up when they succeed at learning," she reflects.

When asked about her favorite subject to teach, Nichole doesn't hesitate. "I really love to teach reading," she shares with enthusiasm. "Reading has always been a passion for me, and I love to share that passion with my students. It's so special to be a part of their reading journey, watching them grow as readers. It absolutely warms my heart to see students obsessing over books or book series."

Although this is Nichole's second year of teaching, it's her first year at Kennedy Elementary, part of the MAPS district. She finds great joy in getting to know her students each year. "My favorite part about teaching is my students. It's always so great to build relationships with them and create a safe space. I always want to be a role model for my students, and it's exciting to see how they grow each school year and all the new knowledge they get to take with them."

Outside of the classroom, Nichole enjoys spending time with her family and friends, often embarking on mini adventures with her Husky, Blaze. "Any chance I get to be outdoors is always my favorite, especially in the summertime," she adds. In addition to outdoor activities, Nichole loves to read in her free time.

A MAPS graduate herself, Nichole was born and raised in Manistee. After spending five years in Grand Rapids, she's happy to be back in her hometown, where she's able to contribute to the community that helped shape her own educational journey.