

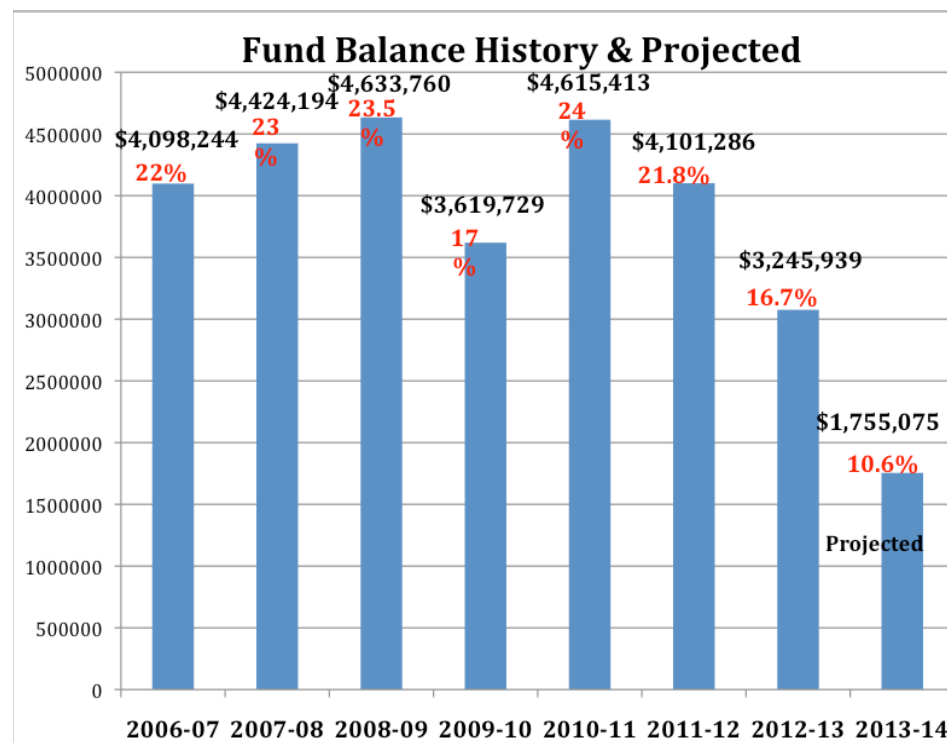
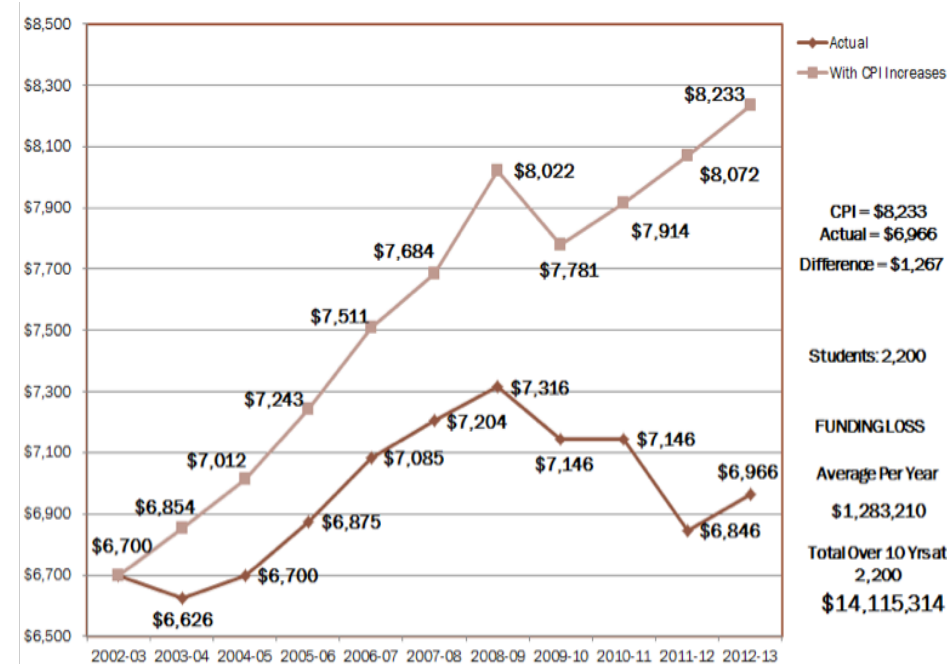
Cummings Corner

Dear Tri County Family,

Each spring we are faced with the task of closing out one school year while preparing for the next school year. In order to meet our goals, we have to look for improvements in all departments, in our curriculum, and review our processes and procedures. As with many districts, the ultimate challenge is how to do this with less financial support. Tri County is fortunate to have a Board of Education that is fiscally responsible. In 2009, the district was at its peak for per pupil funding, and was able to have a fund balance (or savings) of over 20%. Since the decline in per pupil funding over the years the district has needed to use a portion of this fund balance to maintain quality programming.

The following graphs show our per pupil funding trend (which includes a trend line if we stayed consistent with the consumer price index), and a graph of the use of fund equity to maintain programs.

Loss of Revenue since 2008-2009



Did you know?

-Tri County Area Schools offers online payments for your convenience!

Our partnership with e-Funds for Schools will allow you to pay for your student's school lunch and fees from your checking account, debit card and credit card. Parents can access the e-Funds for Schools system and make one payment for multiple school activities, and for one or all of their children, all during a single visit!

To get started, simply visit our website at:

www.tricountyschools.com/ourdistrict/administration/foodservice/



Tri County Area Schools
Academics • Arts • Athletics • Achievement

COMMUNITY MEETING

APRIL 2, 2014

"Helping Every Child Achieve His or Her Best Future"

WHERE:
TC High School
21338 Kendaville
Howard City, MI

Gymnasium

DATE:
WEDNESDAY
April 2nd

TIME:
6:30 p.m.



WWW.TRICOUNTYSCHOOLS.COM

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

ATHLETICS

- NEW LEAGUE BEGINNING 2014-2015

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

- ACADEMICS
- 2014-2015 BUDGET
- SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE
- END OF 2013-2014 YEAR
- Q & A

TRI COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER, 94 CHERRY ST., PO BOX 79, SAND LAKE, MI 49343
PH: (616) 636-5454 FAX: (616) 636-5677

Cummings Corner Continued...

As shown by these two graphs, we continue to see a decline in our financial support from the State. On April 2, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., we will host a community meeting to further discuss the State of our schools. Topics will include: academics and curriculum, budget, school tax collection, and the county wide special education mileage. We will also introduce our new athletic league, which will begin next year. Thank you for your continued support of Tri County Area Schools. We look forward to seeing you on April 2.

Sincerely,
Allen Cumings
Superintendent

Every Child, Every School, Vote

Montcalm Area Intermediate School District is asking voters to support a special education millage on May 6th. Voters last approved an increase in special education funding 24 years ago. Since then, the needs of our students and the cost to support those needs have risen dramatically. Many special education programs and services are mandated by state and federal law and cannot be reduced or eliminated.

If the millage is approved, it will help to maintain current programming, as well as restore funding to each local district's general budget. If this millage is not approved, districts will be forced to utilize more dollars designated for general education to support special education costs. Since special education programs and services are mandated under state and federal law and cannot be eliminated, this will result in general education programs and/or services being reduced or eliminated. Additionally, the ISD may be forced to bill local districts for mandated services they are currently providing, resulting in additional costs to our district.

Voter registration deadline is April 7, 2014. You can register at your local township clerk's office or at any Secretary of State office. You must be registered by April 7th in order to vote on May 6. You can also use an absentee ballot to vote on the Special Education Millage. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is May 3. Ballot applications are available by visiting your local township clerk, or visit www.Michigan.gov/sos for information and applications for registering to vote or applying for an absentee ballot.

For more information regarding this upcoming vote, visit www.maisd.com and click on the "Every Child, Every School, Vote" logo for more information, or search "Montcalm Kids" on Facebook or Twitter. This vote affects all children.

Edgerton's 3 Year Old Program is Off to a Great Start!

By: Ms. Harris, 3-year-old program teacher

Our 3 year-olds got a late start this school year, but we are working hard and have already accomplished many things. The children are getting use to our classroom routines and transitions, as well as learning and following our classroom expectations. We have been working hard with name recognition, which is something we are now close to mastering. The students love activities that promote recognizing their names and learning the individual letters that make up their names. We have also been playing games and doing activities to build friendships and to grow socially. It is great to see how much our young 3 year-olds have grown socially and emotionally since their first day of school back in late September.

We celebrated the holidays by decorating our classroom Christmas tree, making ornaments for our families, and attending the Family Gingerbread House night. In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day by having an Ice Cream Social; parents were also able to take part in our classroom festivities. With the month of March being reading month, we are focusing our activities around our favorite author, Eric Carle. One of our favorite books by Eric Carle is called A Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nick McGhan on his 4th place finish at the state wrestling tournament. Nick finished the season with a 49-4 record. Dustin Prins, Tucker Martin, and Austin Sprik finished in the top 10 in the state, and Jesse Britton and Jayson Van Dyken finished in the top 16. Great job guys!

Congratulations to the band, they received a First Division Rating at the District 7 Band and Orchestra Festival in Cedar Springs! They are now eligible to participate in the State Band and Orchestra Festival later this spring.

Congratulations to the Varsity Cheer team. They finished 8th in state. It was quite the night at the State finals: a night that everyone there will remember forever!

Congratulations to Kaylie Caverley and Alexis Firovich. They each received "Special Mention" honors on the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Class B All-State team.

Providing Supports to Students with Print Disabilities

Staff at Tri County Middle School have committed themselves to providing special education students with print disabilities the tools they need to be successful in the general education curriculum. Special education teachers, with assistance from TC's technology team, are working to provide access to Bookshare, an online library for students with print disabilities (i.e. learning disability in reading). This online library provides students access to copyrighted content for free. This includes textbooks used by the district, as well as books that can be read for pleasure. Students with print disabilities are able to download books for free onto their computers, tablets, phones, MP3 players and iPods. Students are then able to listen to text. Bookshare reads the text, highlights words as they are being read, assists with identifying meaning of unknown words, and allows students to take notes. We have observed students who once struggled with reading, now struggling to put their books down!



Important Dates for Seniors

May 3rd @7pm—Prom

Prom Tickets are on sale during lunch. The cost is \$40 per person and ALL dues must be paid BEFORE purchasing a ticket. The last day for ticket sales will be April 3. See Mrs. Renner or Mrs. Daum if you have questions.

May 6th @3 PM-- All acts must audition for Senior Showcase.

May 8th@ 6pm— Awards Banquet** by invitation

May 12th —Senior Trip to Cedar Point

May 14th—Graduation Tickets and Caps & Gowns Distribution

These will be distributed during lunches; all bills & dues must be paid and you must be on track to WALK at graduation.

May 15th — Last Day for Seniors Graduation Rehearsal @ 1 on last day

May 15th @ 7pm— Senior Showcase

May 15th—Senior All-Nighter

May 18th—Baccalaureate

May 22nd @ 7pm— Graduation Tickets are required for entry to graduation

Please note that each graduate will receive a total of six tickets (four in the bleachers and two on the floor). If you need additional tickets, they will be given out on a first come first served basis beginning at 3:00 pm on Thursday, May 15.

