



Muskegon Heights Public

Schools

NEWS RELEASE

Muskegon Heights, Michigan USA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 1, 2006

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Muskegon Heights Opens Math/Science Academy

The Muskegon Heights Public Schools (MHPS) will continue its push for student academic achievement with the establishment of a new elementary "Math & Science Academy. "

The new fourth through sixth grade program will be housed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School Building, 160 E. Barney Ave. in Muskegon Heights, and will open with the start of the 2006-2007 school year. Superintendent Dana M. Bryant says that Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School is an ideal location for the new program because it is a one story building on a beautiful campus and is named after the country's most prominent and respected civil rights leader.

"The academy is a wonderful opportunity for this community," says the superintendent. "We believe in our students and their ability to compete and win in the classroom as well as on the court or on the field."

"Our families want their children to achieve at their highest potential so that they can compete successfully in the world marketplace. This program is another example of how the Muskegon Heights Public Schools is working hard to support the academic goals of all of our students," explains Supt. Bryant.

The Muskegon Heights School District's increased focus on math and science is in alignment with state and national efforts to ensure that American students are held to high academic standards and can compete successfully, not only nationally but globally.

According to district officials, the program will offer:

- a comprehensive, hands-on curriculum that fully integrates math and science in a real world context,
- the chance for students to study units that emphasize higher-order thinking, problem solving, and data analysis, individually and in teams,
- units of study focused on science and math exploration that also use technology as a tool for analysis and presentation of findings, and
- experts and guest speakers who provide the bridge between theory and practice and enhance classroom instruction.

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Establishing the Math & Science Academy will be “cost neutral” to the district’s budget says Supt. Bryant, adding that the long-term plan for the program is to attract new enrollment and bring new partnerships and resources into the district. The program’s staff will be highly qualified and certified based on NCLB standards.

The Math & Science Academy will offer open enrollment and will initially enroll 84 fourth through sixth grade students. If openings are available in the future, Supt. Bryant says that some students from other communities could be accepted via the county “Schools of Choice” program.

More information about the Math & Science Academy will be available on the district’s website at www.muskegon-heights.k12.mi.us or by calling the MHPS Office of Curriculum & Instruction at (231) 830-3207.