

# BHS Bloomfield Hills S c h o o l s

Spring 2015



Exterior windows and brick



Learning Communities

## The New Bloomfield Hills High School

The new Bloomfield Hills High School is an impressive building standing at 317,687 square feet. And, with approximately 170 construction workers on site, it is buzzing with activity!

Twenty percent of the building is existing Andover architecture that has been remodeled, 80% is brand new construction.

You may ask yourself, "Is the high school going to be completed in time for the start of the 2015-16 school year?" Know that construction is right on track, and the new building is set to academically open in the Fall of 2015.

Want to see more? Follow @B\_Goby on Twitter or visit us on the web at [www.bloomfield.org/BuildingBHHS](http://www.bloomfield.org/BuildingBHHS)



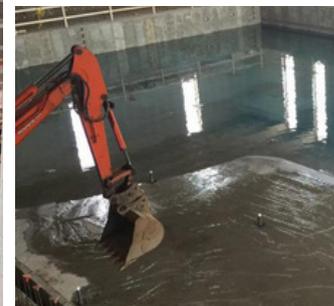
Two story media center & fire-side lounge



Balcony of 800 seat auditorium



Main Commons



12 Lane pool water tested



New turf laid on athletic fields

## Connect with us...



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[@bhschools](https://twitter.com/bhschools)

# Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor:

I'd like to tell you about our son James Forner. He is currently in fifth grade at West Hills Middle School.

Each year, my wife and I get a call from a teacher or from a parent of a student in James' class. They call for all different situations, but still the same in values.

In third grade, a boy fell to the ground in fear then the fire alarm went off. James stayed with him and assured him everything would be all right until the teacher came. When we got a call from the parent, she was crying, explaining how much she appreciated James helping her son.

In the fourth grade, we received a call from a parent who said her son was being picked on and in a fight. James stood up for him and stopped the fight before anyone got hurt. She was so appreciative and informed us that nothing like that had happened since, due to James standing up for the right thing.

This year, James' class lost their homeroom teacher and their physical education teacher. It was hard on some of the students. We received a call from a parent that James had cheered up their child when they were upset.

James does not like when people swear or do the wrong things and he does not just sit back. He will in a nice, respectful way say something. We are amazed by how many people come up to us and say, you know I learned a good lesson from your son today.

James plays baseball on a 12U team that travels all over. He still makes time to help his younger sister Ashley's team. If he is not playing or practicing, he will ask if he can help her team.

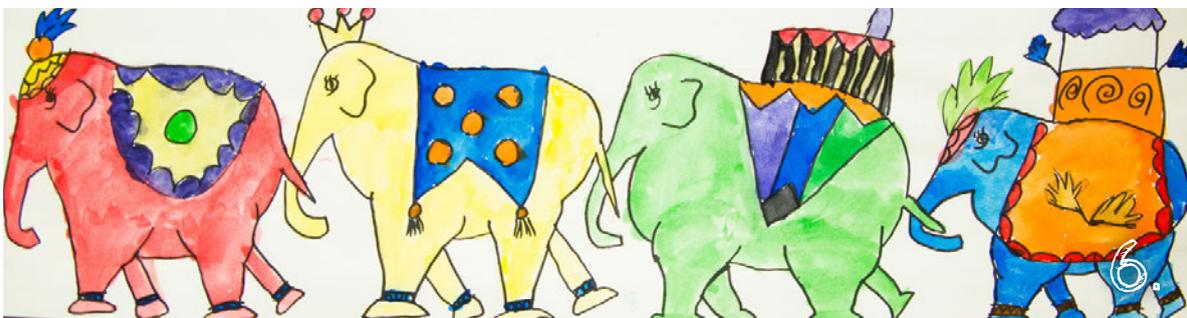
His teacher said that James just gets it. "He has a heart of gold and stands up for the right things. He always stacks the chairs, holds the doors for everyone, always says please and thank you...We need more James in the world!"

Respectfully,

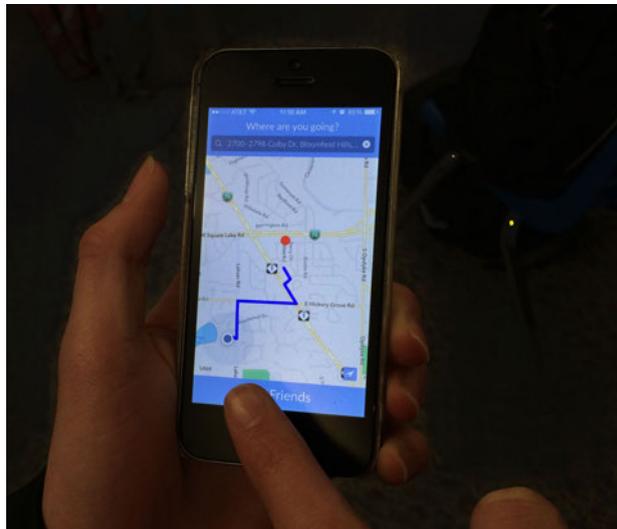
Jim & Lisa Forner

## BHS Student Artwork:

1. Jourdan Rus, digital photo, Bloomfield Hills High School
2. Kaitlyn Roman, painting and drawing, East Hills Middle School
3. Charlie Antone, watercolor, Eastover Elementary
4. Lily Ruden, ceramic, Bloomfield Hills Middle School
5. Jared Tobias, Lone Pine Elementary
6. Sarah Gaines, painting and drawing, Conant Elementary
7. Amanda Margolis, West Hills Middle School
8. Claudia Cooper, photography, Model High School
9. London Davis, Wing Lake Developmental Center, paper and straw
10. Marcus Orlewicz, P.R.E.P.
11. Jack Joloka, Way Elementary



# BHHS Alumni Wins Michigan Business Challenge



By Giancarlo Tucci, student reporter for the Bloomfield Hills High School Newspaper, *The Hawkeye*

Walking home alone late at night without a companion is a thing of the past.

“Companion is a peer to peer safety app,” said University of Michigan (U-M) student and Bloomfield Hills Schools alumnus Danny Freed, who, with another BHS alumna, Lexie Ernst, joined forces with fellow U-M students Jake Wayne, Katie Reiner, and Nathan Pilcowitz, to develop an app. The result was Companion, an app

These kids are up all hours studying, they work hard, they’re tired, but it’s peace of mind to know that when [Lexie] throws the companion request out, there is someone watching.”

It was the issue of college campus security that inspired the creation of Companion. “We get these crime alert emails that are often hours late. A couple weeks ago, I got an email saying that there was an armed robbery on campus, that happened at 10pm, but I didn’t get the email until 10am,” said Freed. “If I was in the area, I would have wanted to know that right away. We noticed a big problem [so we] started to try and craft a solution.”

Their solution has also reached out to serve more people than just college students. “My sister uses it for her daughter, who is twelve,” said Debbie Ernst. “When she is taking her bike to the park or going to a friend’s house they use it, and they love it.”

According to Ernst, the Michigan Business Challenge, a multi-round competition, started in December. “We beat seventy nine other teams and were the first undergrad team to ever win in the 32 years of the competition. It was an amazing feeling and I felt very accomplished.”

However, Companion isn’t stopping at just a mobile app. With \$25,000 to work with, Freed, Ernst and their team have bigger plans. “We also are working on a monitoring service for public safety organizations, starting with the Campus Safety Department at Michigan, as well as developing an Android version of Companion,” said Freed. “We are all very optimistic about Companion’s future and our involvement in promoting safety.”

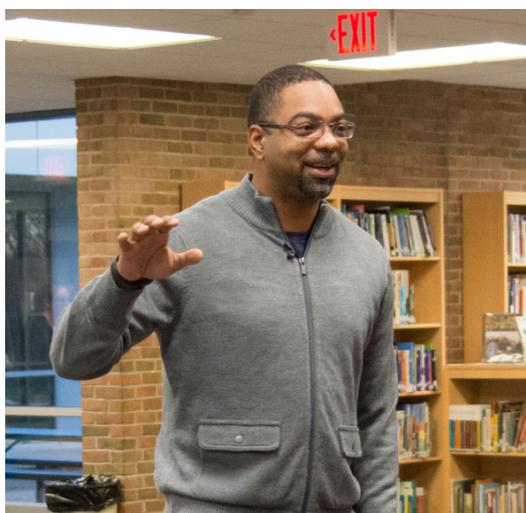
that took first place and a \$25,000 cash prize in the Michigan Business Challenge.

“It allows you to reach out to family or friends and have them keep an eye on you as you walk home late at night. It is a mobile app and has several triggers built in. It can detect if you start running or if you don’t make it to your destination on time, and it will ask you if you are ok. If you don’t respond in ten seconds, it alerts whoever you selected to be your companion.”

Companion is also designed to work for car trips and any other form of transportation. “It works really well for me with my parents,” said Lexie Ernst. “If I’m driving back up to Ann Arbor from Bloomfield, my parents will say ‘text me when you get there’ but now that worry has gone away because I have Companion, so my parents can see me as I drive home and when I get home, they’re notified.”

Companion gives parents reassurance that their kids are traveling safely. “College students are always super, super busy, and they can’t always be reliant on a friend walking home with them,” said Debbie Ernst, Lexie’s mother. “I think the app, for college students, is amazing.”

## East Hills Middle School Winners’ Circle: With Galen Duncan of the Detroit Lions



“The great thing about winners is that they do not need a crowd [cheering for them], the crowd is right here in their hearts,” said Galen Duncan, Ph.D. and Senior Director of Player Development for the Detroit Lions. Duncan spoke at the EHMS Winners’ Circle presentation, encouraging students to be motivated and to win- both in sports and academics.

The EHMS Winners’ Circle is a before school program where students are given the opportunity to hear from guest speakers on goal setting and overcoming difficulties so they can reach their fullest potential.

## : BHMS & WHMS Students Win : Essay Contest

Leena Jandali, 5th grade student at Bloomfield Hills Middle School received first place in the 17th Annual Ford Freedom Awards Essay Contest. Ketan Revankar, 8th grade student at West Hills Middle School, received second place.

This year’s theme was “Technopreneurs: Builders of the Innovative Economy.” Students were asked to think about a challenge that they or their classmates faced in trying to pursue an education. They then described a mobile app they would build that would use the strengths of their classmates, teachers, or larger community, to overcome these challenges.

The Ford Freedom Awards Essay Contest is a scholarship competition organized by the Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services and Detroit Newspapers in Education in cooperation with the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

“I was very excited to learn that my daughter, Leena, received first place among roughly 800 entries! This speaks to our amazing students, teachers and the great educational environment that our district provides!” said Karma Jandali.



# Bloomfield Hills Schools Foundation

The March Bloomfield Hills Schools Foundation Celebration brought together people from across our community to celebrate our schools and raise funds for the BHSF's district-wide grant program. The inaugural gala raised more than \$70,000 and much of the money was immediately put to use as the BHSF awarded its Winter 2015 grants on April 17.

Fourteen teachers from seven Bloomfield Hills Schools received grants. Bloomfield Hills High School received grants for a Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Side-by-Side Concert and a water appreciation project for the Man in Nature class. West Hills Middle School was granted funds for its World Religion Initiative program for seventh graders. The BHSF helped to fund a Global Village Field Trip for East Hills Middle School fifth graders and a Lancer Percussion Ensemble at BHMS. Bowers Academy is studying the Impact of Urban Farming with the aid of a BHSF grant. A complete list of BHSF grants is available on the website, [www.bloomfield.org/Foundation](http://www.bloomfield.org/Foundation).

The BHSF receives numerous grant applications from educators each year. These requests are for inspiring and world expanding



experiences that benefit our students and our community. Last year, we funded more than \$40,000 in grants. These grants gave teachers the opportunity to offer important programs in reading, writing, math, science and the arts. They touch every student, at every grade in every school. However, we received requests for more than \$250,000. Every application received was exciting and thought-provoking.

The BHSF's goal is to fund significantly more applications annually. As a platform for growth and innovation, the Foundation helps BHS by providing over and above support, by enabling the extraordinary possibilities. The BHSF is made up of people like you --individuals, families, corporations and foundations who believe that together we can make a difference. We rely on tax-deductible donations from the community to support the grant program and continue the tradition of excellence in the Bloomfield Hills Schools.

**Honor an Educator**  
Thank a teacher or staff member for their dedicated service to our students with a



contribution to the BHS Foundation. Whether you're looking for an individual, class or family gift, you can show your appreciation and support for a teacher through a donation. Your gift reflects your desire to make a lasting impact on the lives of others, just as your honoree has done for you.

**Honor a Student**  
Recognize the tremendous dedication and accomplishments of a student through a gift to the BHSF. Celebrate their success while supporting the opportunities for others to succeed.

Each honoree receives a note acknowledging that a gift was made in their honor. Honorees will also be listed in the BHSF's annual report.

For more information on the BHSF or to make a contribution, please visit [www.bloomfield.org/donate](http://www.bloomfield.org/donate) or call 248-341-5465.

Make a tribute donation by June 16 and be entered into a drawing to win four tickets to the Saturday, June 27 Tiger's game.



# Eastover Elementary's Kindergarten Auto Show

By John King, Resident of Beverly Hills, Michigan

When my 6 year old Grandson, Ryan King, asked me to attend his Kindergarten Class to watch the presentation which his class put together for parents to come observe, I was happy to pinch hit for my busy son and daughter in law. I'm glad I was asked, as what I witnessed was truly remarkable, especially considering the ages of the children.

The presentation was entitled, *The Kindergarten Auto Show*, which among other things, did a "Mock Up Auto Assembly Line" on tables in the kindergarten room.. Students added (pasted) something else to the "paper vehicle" as it made its way down the line. What a wonderful thing to teach and have the students experience.

Then the students divided into two groups, half were treated to each child's explanation of what each child made: cars, buses, boats, motorcycles, etc. Next, the groups switched, and in the hallway outside of the Kindergarten classroom, on tables, and on the wall, were 7 or 8 stations, that explained the concepts the children were taught.

The highlight of the hour long experience, was being treated to five and six year olds singing the Beatles tune, "Baby You can Drive My Car," as a connection to the event.

As one of the parents and grandparents, I was greatly impressed with the efforts and success of the teacher, Mrs. Colby. For the most part, this was the students' program, which went off flawlessly. Congrats to Mrs. Colby and Mrs. Crocker, the Principal, who both shared with me that this way of teaching, stemmed from a Harvard University Professor, who introduced Project Zero, with an emphasis on "Visual Learning."

It would be hard to imagine beforehand, if someone explained to me what I would see, so it was all the more delightful to have witnessed it first hand. Keep up the good work and congratulations for your successful, Kindergarten Auto Show!

# Oakland County Green School Awards

Bloomfield Hills Schools earned designations at the Oakland County Green School Award Ceremony! Each school earned the following designations:

- Bloomfield Hills High School- Green
- East Hills Middle School- Green
- West Hills Middle School- Evergreen
- Conant Elementary- Evergreen
- Eastover Elementary School- Evergreen
- Lone Pine Elementary School- Evergreen
- Way Elementary School- Evergreen
- International Academy, Okma Campus- Evergreen



Schools participate in activities preserving the environment to earn Green, Emerald or Evergreen school environmental stewardships. A school achieving 10 approved activities can apply to be designated a Michigan Green School, 15 activities- a Michigan Emerald School, 20 activities- a Michigan Evergreen School. Schools plan activities promoting the health of the Great Lakes watershed, alternative energy use, programs for recycling, and more.

# summer 2015 CAMP

For for information & to register visit  
[www.bloomfield.org/schools/summer-experiences](http://www.bloomfield.org/schools/summer-experiences)  
 or call 248.433.0885.

# Congratulations Graduates!

93.2% of you are attending college.

172 of you were selected as Michigan Competitive Scholarship Qualifiers.

You performed 31,913 hours of community service during your high school years. At current state minimum wage, that equates to over \$260,000 given back to the community through volunteer hours.

9 of you were National Merit Finalists and Semifinalists, and 2 were National Achievement Scholarship Program Semifinalists.

[www.Bloomfield.org](http://www.Bloomfield.org)



## Bowers Academy Students Hosted A Two Day Seminar with Oakland University Students

By: Stuart Baum, Bowers Academy student

Students at Bowers Academy designed, coordinated, and hosted a two day seminar in cooperation with Oakland University students. The seminar consisted of both large and small group discussions, as well as individual speeches and an opportunity to ask and answer specific questions.

Oakland University students observed methods used at Bowers Academy to learn valuable and practical skills for teaching students from various backgrounds and different abilities.

Bowers Academy students studied various forms of conflict resolution, learned how to develop a professional project of their own design from start to finish, and practiced public speaking, interacting with adults, and expressing qualities of strong leadership.

By the end of the event, it was clear that a new and productive dialogue was established between Oakland University and Bowers Academy students. Students understood how teachers' and students' goals for a healthy school environment can align in a way that benefits everyone. A strong and lasting relationship was established between two significant educational institutions. All students were appreciative of the chance to learn, to discuss important matters, to meet new and interesting people, and to create positive memories.

The development of this project and event was greatly assisted by Oakland University Professor Dr. Emery Petchauer and his student Stefanie Fragomeni who spent several weeks engaging in a field study placement at Bowers Academy.

## The Rankin Family Chooses to Eat Their Veggies!

Joey Rankin, 6th grade student at Bloomfield Middle School and Kacy Rankin, 3rd grade student at Conant Elementary share their favorite after school snack: Roasted parmesan edamame. It's healthy too!

Jessica Rankin has been nicknamed the "Food Police" by her children. "I make them eat healthier than anyone else they know!" Jessica laughed, "[My children] understand that they need to 'strive for five' fruits and/or veggies per day. They know and understand what a protein is and a carb/starch and how to balance a meal. They know that they need to choose a protein for each meal and eat a rainbow of colors of fresh foods...They even understand what 'processed' foods are versus fresh!"

The Rankin Family encourages their children to try new foods as well. Each time Joey or Kacy try a new dish they are rewarded a dollar. "They save up lots of money this way, and it encourages them to keep expanding their pallet," Jessica says.

### Roasted Parmesan Edemame

- Prep: 3 minutes
- Olive oil (spray or 2 tsp.)
- 1 Package frozen shelled edemame beans (fresh can also be used)
- Parmesan cheese
- Salt

- 1. Spray a cookie sheet with olive oil.
- 2. Place a package of frozen shelled edemame beans in a single layer.
- 3. Sprinkle parmesan cheese generously on top.
- 4. Add a little bit of salt.
- 5. Roast or bake in a toaster oven or conventional oven at 375/400 degrees until cheese is golden brown.

• Recipe by the Rankin Family.  
 • Photo includes Steven (Father),  
 • Jessica (Mother), Joey and Kacy  
 • (daughters).



## Like Our New Look?

Printing on newsprint paper saves  
 Bloomfield Hills Schools \$3,719.59 per issue!

Want to read more news? Visit our website at  
[www.bloomfield.org](http://www.bloomfield.org) and connect with us at  
[www.Facebook.com/BHSchools](http://www.Facebook.com/BHSchools) and  
[www.Twitter.com/BHSchools](http://www.Twitter.com/BHSchools)

## FREE Senior Gold Card Program

Bloomfield Hills Schools district residents 55+ years are eligible for the Senior Gold Card Program. Gold Card holders are entitled to FREE admittance to home athletic events (except playoff games governed by MHSAA regulations), dramatic productions, and musical programs. To get your free Gold Card contact Barb Tegart in the Communications and Community Relations Office at 248.341.5445 or [btegart@bloomfield.org](mailto:btegart@bloomfield.org).



# Alumni News:

## An Architect in the Big Apple

Chris Thibodeau, Andover High School alumnus, is extremely successful businessman, yet tremendously humble about it. He graduated from high school in 1997, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Michigan State University, a Master's Degree in Architecture at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan, worked at Spector Group Architects, AB Design Studio, and Sawyer Berson, and now is a Senior Architect at Spector Group in New York City.

### **BHS: How do you like living and working in New York City?**

When I first moved out to NYC, it felt like a giant playground for young adults starting a career. People always say the diverse cultures, food, and entertainment is what makes NYC special. After living here for more than 8 years I have to say my favorite thing about NYC is the unique and interesting people that decide to live in such a large and challenging city. Every day is different good or bad. I also met my wife Jena here, and we now have a healthy beautiful eight month old baby, so NYC will always be special to me.

### **How would you describe yourself to someone who doesn't know you?**

Honest and someone who tries to always do the right thing no matter the circumstance.

### **When did you know that you wanted to be an architect?**

In 8th grade, I visited a friend who was building a new house. I was amazed how much goes into designing and building a house. I felt Architecture was the perfect balance between creativity and technical knowledge only learned by hard work and dedication.

### **What has been your favorite design project?**

My two favorite projects to date were working on a team that designed Jay Z and Beyonce's roof terrace in Tribeca and Madonna's townhouse in the Upper East Side.

### **What are you working on now?**

We just completed a state of the art renovation of NASDAQ MarketSite and Broadcast Studio in Time Square. I recently transitioned to managing an office space renovation for a large investment company from Qatar who is moving into the 34th floor of 9 West 57th (one of the most expensive office buildings in NYC with one of the best views of Central Park).

### **Do you have a role model?**

I have always admired Frank Lloyd Wright and what he has done for Architecture. His design is timeless and something that I still look at for inspiration to this day.

### **What is your favorite memory of your time in Bloomfield Hills Schools?**

There are so many great memories from Andover High School. I think I miss organized sports the most. My favorite sport was Lacrosse. I played on the first team ever in the school's history. We did not have enough people to field a team so we joined up with Lahser.

### **What advice would you give to current students and alumni?**

It does not matter what you do in life as long as you strive to be the best in your profession and do it the right way. Everything else will take care of itself.



## Alumni Connect

Connect with Chris Thibodeau and other alumni using **Alumni Connect!**  
[www.bloomfield.org/alumni](http://www.bloomfield.org/alumni)

If you would like to share your story please email Lauren at [lmacleod@bloomfield.org](mailto:lmacleod@bloomfield.org) or call 248.341.6328.

## Trending on Twitter...

- Congrats to the BHHS IB DP Class of 2015! <http://ow.ly/NLZi5> #BHSIB @bhschools
- RT @jschare: #AugmentedReality @ our #visiblethinking exhibition! MI headlines & poems! @EastoverEagles @Techbradwaid
- RT @TheBiff881: The guys from Motor City Static are live from the Bowers Farm. . @BHBlackHawks @bhschools
- The BHS Middle School Girls Lacrosse Team placed 2nd @ Sacred Heart Lacrosse Tournament! @BHMSLancers @EastHills5\_8 @ WestHillsMS
- WHMS 5th graders visited Wing Lake Developmental Center to read to the students #10GP @west\_hillsms <http://tinyurl.com/ovemz8p>
- Brian Goby, Dir. of Physical Plant Services, earned the Meridian Award from the MSBO for his PROJECT GATEWAY: Transitions to New Learning!
- "Thank you for taking the time to vote on May 5, if you had the chance to do so." @glasr333 Letter to the community: <http://tinyurl.com/maa5mpg>



# What do you want to be when you grow up?

Bloomfield Hills Schools students have the unique advantage of learning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) hands-on!

Students are supported in an environment that promotes personal learning, critical thinking, and creativity. Learners are connected to the world outside the classroom and engage in meaningful work that drives passion, risk-taking, and a deep sense of student ownership.

To learn more about the vast opportunities we provide in Bloomfield Hills Schools, please visit [www.bloomfield.org](http://www.bloomfield.org). For information regarding enrollment options or to schedule a tour, please call 248.341.5451.

**A limited number of tuition spots are available K-12 in Bloomfield Hills Schools for the 2015-16 school year!**

[www.bloomfield.org/enrollment](http://www.bloomfield.org/enrollment)  
248.341.6390

#### Asbestos Management Plan

The District has developed a comprehensive Asbestos Management Plan as required by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is available for review in each school office or through the Physical Plant Services Office, 4220 Andover Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. If you have any questions or wish to review the plans, please call 248.341.5480.

#### District Pesticide Notification

Bloomfield Hills Schools implemented an "Integrated Pesticide Management" program (IPM) for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the use of herbicides or

pesticides in District buildings and sites.

There are times, however, that a pesticide or herbicide application is necessary. Prior to these times, unless an emergency occurs, you have the right to be notified of these applications. This notification is in compliance with State Regulation #637, revised effective Aug. 13, 1995. If you desire to be notified of scheduled applications during the school year, please contact your child's building secretary and request your name be placed on the notification list. A list will be retained by school personnel to contact you regarding dates of any application that may occur when school is in session. During the summer of 2015, school break periods, and prior to the start of the 2015-2016 school year, the grounds department will be applying weed-controlling

herbicides to all sites. This letter is your notification of that application. Notification will also be posted at the main entrances of all buildings where applications occur.

#### Storm Water Management

Bloomfield Hills Schools has a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program as required by the Environmental Protection Agency. The program is designed to help the District improve the quality of the storm water discharged from District facilities. The written plan is available for review through the Physical Plant Services Office, 4220 Andover Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. If you have any questions or wish to review the plan, please call 248.341.5480.