

NICE NEWS



August 2026

NICE Community Schools
300 Westwood Drive
Ishpeming, MI 49849
PHONE: (906) 485-1021

Volume 45 Number 1

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - FULL DAY

Hello NICE Families and Friends,

We are ready to begin our new school year on Tuesday, September 8. ARS, WHS, and our district campus are looking good as we prepare to welcome back our students. Thank you for making us your family's choice for your educational needs. We are honored to help our young people sharpen their skills and competencies as they study academics and pursue their favorite extracurricular activities.

As we get started with our fall semester, please know we are here to support our community's students every way we can. If you or your child need help with something, please reach out to our building faculty and staff:

Aspen Ridge Elementary School: 906.485.3175
Aspen Ridge Middle School: 906.485.3176
Westwood High School: 906.485.1023
District Central Office: 906.485.1021

We hope you enjoy the remaining days of summer. We'll see you soon!

All my best,
Bryan DeAugustine, Superintendent

On behalf of NICE Community Schools, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 53rd year of Westwood High School!

Our Westwood family is committed to providing every student with a high-quality education while creating a school environment where all students feel respected, safe, supported, and valued. We believe that student success is strengthened through involvement, connection, and a willingness to be an active part of our school community.

The variety of programs, activities, and opportunities available across the NICE campus provides every student with a chance to discover their interests, build meaningful relationships, and become an engaged member of our school community.

We are proud of Westwood High School's long tradition of excellence and grateful that you have chosen to make Westwood your partner in education this school year. We look forward to working together to make this a successful, rewarding, and memorable year for every student.

Welcome to Westwood High School—we are excited for a great school year!

Cliff Fassitt, Principal

Dear Aspen Ridge Families,

Welcome back! Fall is always an exciting time of the year and we are excited to kick off a new school year with all of you. Please join us for our annual Open House on Thursday, September 3rd from 6:00-7:00 pm. For those looking to get involved with the school, be sure to stop in the Family Resource Room to learn more. They can help connect you with the ARES and/or ARMS PTO groups.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Chris Marana and Griffin Lawson

Principals, Aspen Ridge School

PATRIOT PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP

Each spring the Westwood All Sports Booster Club provides scholarships in the amount of \$500 to two senior athletes. There are a variety of levels of support, beginning at \$10 and shown below. Your name will be printed as a Patriot Pride Member in the Westwood High School Sports Programs for the fall and winter seasons.

Patriot—\$100 Red—\$50 White—\$25 Blue—\$10

For more information, please contact a member of the Booster Club or call the office at Westwood High School at (906) 485-1023.

ONLINE LEARNING AT NICE

The Patriot Online Academy is a State of Michigan, accredited online public school that is FREE to students K-12. We provide the opportunity for students to enroll as a part-time or full-time student with the NICE Community School district. Over the last several years, many students in grades K-12 enrolled in both core and elective courses. All of the courses are aligned with Michigan standards and are teacher-led by our own local highly qualified instructors. Our POA Director, Kurt Corcoran, will help students and monitor their progress. For more information, contact Kurt Corcoran, Patriot Online Academy Coordinator, by email at corcorank@nice.k12.mi.us or by phone at 485-1023. Information can be found on the web at <http://www.nice.k12.mi.us/PatriotOnlineAcademy/Home.aspx>.



SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

There will be no cost for a school breakfast and/or lunch each day for all K-12 students again this year. Milk is included with each meal served but all students can purchase milk for 50 cents per carton. A la carte (grades 4-12) items and second meals are available for purchase as long as students have money in their Food Service accounts.

***Education Benefits Forms are being sent home and we encourage families to complete and return them. A lot of funding for programs and services in a school district is based on household income data collected for that district. Please help us secure the maximum possible federal funding by completing an Education Benefits Form even though meals are free to begin this school year. Please fill out the form even if you do not plan to have your child take advantage of the school's lunch program.**

◆ SCHOOL BREAKFAST & LUNCH WILL BE SERVED OPENING DAY

Aspen Ridge School Breakfast begins at 7:45 a.m. & Westwood High School Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m.

Parents are encouraged to use the **"SchoolPay" online option*** to add funds to their student accounts for purchasing a la carte item, milk, and second meals. Student account histories showing purchases and balances are available through Family Access. Payments will still be accepted in the school office in check or cash. Students will have the same pin numbers as last year. *SchoolPay details are available on the district website.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter
- In a motel or campground due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodation
- In a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station
- Doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Please contact the school office for assistance if you believe your children may be eligible.



BUS ROUTES

The Bus Routes for the **2026-2027** school year can be found on the NICE website [here](#):

www.nice.k12.mi.us

Parents>Bus Schedules>2026-2027 Bus Routes

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

The NICE Community School District is accepting Schools of Choice applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Application forms are available in the Superintendent's Office or online at www.nice.k12.mi.us and will be accepted for the first semester through September 11, 2026. For more information, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 906-485-1021.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The NICE Board of Education appreciates your interest in the school district. Public participation and open lines of communication are vital to maintaining a successful educational program for students. All regular and special board meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend. Board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month in the Westwood High School Media Center. Dates and times for upcoming Board meetings are located on the district website at www.nice.k12.mi.us.

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS & START TIMES FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

	High School	Aspen Ridge School
School Begins	8:05 a.m.	8:19 a.m.
School Ends	3:00 p.m.	3:11 p.m.
Where to report on September 8th:	1st hour class	Designated Rooms / 6-8 Gymnasium

IMPORTANT DATES

September 8 First Day for Students
November 26, 27 No School – Thanksgiving Break
Dec 21–Jan 1 No School (Winter Break)
January 4 Classes Resume
March 22 - March 29 No School – Spring Break
March 30 Classes Resume
May 31 No school – Memorial Day
SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS Held the third Monday of each month. Dates and times for upcoming Board meetings are listed at: www.nice.k12.mi.us

NICE START

The NICE Start preschool program provides 3- and 4-year old children the opportunity to develop skills necessary for Kindergarten and beyond. The program begins Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Please call the Central Office at 906-485-1021 or send an email to marge@nice.k12.mi.us if you have any questions.

KIDS CLUB

NICE Community School District Kids Club After School Program provides after-school activities and childcare for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Kids Club operates Monday through Friday from dismissal through 5:30 p.m. The program will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. Registration information will be available in the Aspen Ridge Office and on the district website. The fee is based on the number of days children will attend. **All past due balances must be paid in full before we accept your child's enrollment into the program.**

ATHLETIC TICKET PRICES

	Athletic Pass Costs	WHS General Admission	ARMS General Admission
Student (Attending another District or college students under the age of 22 with a valid college ID)	\$25	\$3	\$2
Adult (single)	\$40	\$5	\$3
Senior Citizen (Non Resident)	\$25	\$3	\$3
Senior Citizen (Resident)	NA	NA	NA
Adult (couple)	\$60	Note: Season passes are not honored at the Superior Dome or MHSAA Tournament Games.	
3-Member Family	\$70		
4-Member Family	\$85		
5+ Member Family	\$100		

All students attending the NICE District will receive a free sports pass. Passes will be good for admittance to ALL NICE District sponsored athletic events for the entire 2026-2027 school year. (Includes all high school and middle school contests). Residents of the NICE District 62 years or older can receive a NICE District "All Sports Lifelong Pass" at no cost. You must present a valid drivers license as proof of age and residency at time of issue.

SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

The Westwood Sports Booster Club invites you to join them at their next meeting of the new school year on Monday, September 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Westwood High School. Come to see how our organization supports athletics at Westwood. All parents are welcome!

WALKERS @ WHS

Westwood High School is open for adult walkers again for the entire school year. Walking will be permitted on Monday and Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on game nights, and 4:30-7:30 p.m. on other nights. Game schedules will be available in the high school office.

ADULT SERVICES—AN ALTERNATIVE

Adult Services is an alternative high school completion program offered by Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Community Education Division under the direction of William Hartman, Director, and Jason Houle, Principal. INN serves students ages 13-19 in the Marquette County area allowing them to earn their high school diploma. The program meets Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Johns School located at 325 S. Pine Street, Ishpeming.

To register or get further information, please call (906) 475-4173.

I.N.N. Enrichment Opportunities

Follow the **Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Community Schools** Facebook page for updates and any offerings.

Follow NICE on Facebook!

District Website: www.nice.k12.mi.us

Find us on Facebook:
<http://facebook.com/niceschools>

