# GRETCHKO ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 4, 2020** 



## **MESSAGE FROM WBSD'S SUPERINDENDENT**

Dear West Bloomfield families,

Like many of you, we've been paying close attention to the protests and demonstrations against the systemic and institutional racism in this country. To be clear, the *West Bloomfield School District does not tolerate racism or injustice of any kind*. We believe in equity, diversity and unity for all.

**To our Black families**, you are not invisible. We see you, we hear you and we are here for you. **To our Black students**, you matter. Your life matters. Your education, health and prosperity matter.

Even though we may be apart, we stand together against the injustices, police brutality and racism facing the black community in this country.

Black Lives Matter and we stand with you during these difficult times.

Together we are Team WB.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald Hill

Superintendent

West Bloomfield School District



#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gretchko Families,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am in full support of Dr. Hill's statement that the West Bloomfield School District is against racism and injustice of any kind. At Gretchko we pride ourselves in having a school where children learn and grow to their full potential in a safe environment. We strive to celebrate all children and their uniqueness, as we help them find their true selves as leaders.

We can not achieve this goal alone. Together with our families and our community leaders we are asking you to join us in strengthening race relations and promoting equity across our nation through education, unity and a commitment to tackling bais here in our West Bloomfield community. Please consider sitting down as a family and talking with your children about what they might be feeling, their fears and ways that we can help support their understanding of this national problem. It is my hope that we will be able to instill a message of empathy and understanding and that there is no place for hate in our school, our community and our country.

As an educator of young children I know these conversations can often be difficult. I am providing you with some developmentally appropriate resources that can be used to educate and spark conversations. They include topics such as; race, inclusivity, diversity and standing against injustice and racism. <a href="mailto:Embrace.org">Embrace.org</a> is an excellent document about talking to your child which might be helpful.

As we go into the summer, please keep Dr. Hill's message in the forefront and have those conversations with your children. Let's make this a summer of reading, learning, and loving one another in a safe inclusive environment. I look forward to personal growth in this area to help ensure a better future for our children.

Sincerely,

Sally Drummond Principal

#### Books to pursue include the following:

- · Wonder by R.J. Palacio
- It's OK To Be Different by Todd Parr
- Last Stop on Market Street by Matt De La Pena
- Little Humans by Brandon Stanton
- Ganesh and the Little Mouse by Anjali Joski
- Red: A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall
- Whoever You Are by Mem Fox
- · A Place for Pluto by Stef Wade
- Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees
- All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman

#### 10 Books to read on Discrimination & Racism:

- 1.) White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" Robin J. DiAngelo
- 2.) "How to Be an Antiracist" Ibram X. Kendi
- 3.) "Me and White Supremacy" Layla F. Saad
- 4.) "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in The Cafeteria?" Beverly Daniel Tatum
- 5.) "Between The World and Me" Ta-Nehisi Coates
- 6.) "Stamped From the Beginning" Ibram X. Kendi
- 7.) "So You Want To Talk About Race" Ijeoma Oluo
- 8.) "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" Austin Channing Brown
- 9.) "White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide" Carol Anderson
- 10.) "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America" Richard Rothstein

#### SESAME STREET-STANDING UP TO RACISM

Sesame Street is hosting a town hall meeting on racism, please go to the following for further information

https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/cnn-sesame-street-standing-up-to-racism/index.html? fbclid=lwAR26liuBL5smFxLE7vYtCX85sNgM2BsckC-qYnsjlBsngchGw\_LKLtTq2LU

#### END OF THE YEAR ITEM PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Gretchko School parking lot will be under construction beginning June 4th and will limit our access to the building and parking areas. We have adjusted our procedures to accommodate the construction.

Our staff has pre-bagged all student items. Art work from the hallways and from Mrs. Takata's art class have been included. Please review the instructions and schedule below:

Drop off and Pick up at Gretchko June 9-11, 2020

Pick-Up and Drop-Off Days - items to return

- District-Issued Computer Devices with charging chords
- Teacher Books that were distributed to each student on March 16th
- Gretchko library books
- Teacher Book Bags

#### **Procedure for Pick-Up and Drop-Off**

- When you enter the driveway our staff will be in the front bus loop to the right (east), in front of the building entrance. When you pull up to the carline drop-off area, please stay in your car.
- If you are able, please put your student's bus tag in the vehicle windshield to help us.
- You will hand us items you are returning, and we will hand you your child's belongings.
- We will also have lost and found items available to pick up outside the building, on tables, on the left(west) side of the building in the parking area.

Tuesday, June 9th: <u>Kindergarten Pick-Up & Drop-Off - 8 AM- 3 PM</u>
Wednesday, June 10th: <u>1st Grade Pick-Up & Drop-Off - 8 AM- 3 PM</u>
Thursday, June 11th: <u>2nd Grade Pick-Up & Drop-Off - 8 AM-3 PM</u>

If you are unable to pick up items at the designated time for your grade, please contact a **neighbor or relative** to drop off your borrowed computer, computer charger, books, and book bags and pick up your student's items.

If you are unable to arrange anyone to pick up your student's items during the the scheduled time, we have a short window for evening pick up.

#### **Evening Pick-Up Time: Thursday, June 10th**

4 - 7 PM (families that can't make their scheduled time)

We appreciate parents helping us by maintaining the social distance schedule above. Please remain in your car and our staff will retrieve your student's items.

#### **SCHOOL FINANCE UPDATE**

Dear West Bloomfield families,

Schools across the country are faced with unprecedented uncertainty as budgets for the 2020-21 school year are prepared in the midst of a pandemic. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Michigan's economy has struggled significantly, leading to budget shortfalls. Recent projections have shown state revenue to be down by more than \$3 billion than earlier anticipated for the current fiscal year. The School Aid Fund is down more than \$1 billion for the current fiscal year and another \$1 billion for 2020-2021.

The U.S. Congress has passed some federal funding for education-related expenses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is not nearly enough. For example, the West Bloomfield School District received approximately \$250,000 from the CARES Act. This money was used to purchase technology-related services to support our Cloud Learning initiative. An additional aid package is in the works in Lansing but the future of that funding appears to be in jeopardy.

A group of lawmakers have prepared **House Resolution 267**: *A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to not enact a federal bailout for states*. This resolution will dramatically impact public education in our state as additional revenue from the federal level is needed to support school budgets and ensure the prosperous educational future of our students.

The resolution is linked below:

https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/resolutionintroduced/House/htm/2020-HIR-0267.htm

This resolution takes a firm stance against public education and sets a dangerous precedent for school funding in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Representative Ryan Berman, who represents residents in our school district in Lansing is a co-sponsor of this resolution. We ask that you help us make our case to Rep. Berman and illustrate to him how much this stance will impact the education of students in West Bloomfield and across the state. We stand to lose between \$700 - \$1,400 per student in State aid if policies consistent with this resolution are adopted.

You can contact Rep. Berman the following ways:

- Phone: (517) 373-1799
- Email: RyanBerman@house.mi.gov
- Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/StateRepBerman/">https://www.facebook.com/StateRepBerman/</a>
- Mailing Address: S-888 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
- Website: <a href="https://gophouse.org/representatives/southeast/berman/">https://gophouse.org/representatives/southeast/berman/</a>

Some suggested talking points for your correspondence include:

- Immediate action is needed from our federal and state elected officials to put forward additional funds for schools.
- Schools are instrumental to restarting the economy. Delaying additional funding support from the federal levels makes little sense.
- The rumored reductions to per pupil funding will cripple districts and force deep, painful cuts to staff and program offerings.
- This is a dire and damaging situation for our students and families.
- How will the State of Michigan's "Rainy Day" fund be used to help school districts?
- Why is the School Aid Fund once again being raided to support other entities within the state?
- We appreciate the support of our district stakeholders as we work to secure the budgetary support necessary to help our students thrive in these unprecedented times.

Thank you for helping us reach our elected officials at the state and federal levels and inform them just how disastrous their current course of actions will be for the future of our students. Be Well,

Dr. Gerald Hill
Superintendent
West Bloomfield School District



OLMS' Advanced Musical Theater Productions class hopes you attend their show of STRANDED:VIEWS FROM QUARANTINE, written by various reputable playwrights and compiled by Stage Partners. You will get a peek into the world of quarantine through the eyes of the quirky characters confined on a cruise ship stranded at sea!

#### **MUSICAL THEATER SLIDE SHOW INVITATION**

This is from April and I and the musical theater students at OLMS...may the memory of our lost show always live on for them. We hope you enjoy it!

Musical Theater BATB Slideshow\_Internet.mp4

# WB COALITION PRESENTS - BUILDING BETTER BOUNDRIES FOR STUDENTS

KIDS BEING HOME THIS SUMMER WITH NO ACTIVITIES TO HELP ESTABLISH A REGULAR ROUTINE WILL REQUIRE PARENTS TO NAVIGATE A NEW WAY OF SETTING HEALTHY BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATIONS AT HOME.



**WBSD SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2020-21** 



#### WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### PORTRAIT of a GRADUATE

## 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Revised May 2020 www.wbsd.org/calendar

August 26	First Day of School (Full Day)	
August 28	No School for Students or Staff	
September 4	No School for Students or Staff	
September 7	Labor Day - No School	
September 14	Early Release	
September 21	Early Release	
September 28	No School for Students or Staff	
October 5	Early Release	
October 12	Early Release	
October 19	Early Release	
October 26	Early Release (EL/MS only)	
November 2	Early Release	
November 3	Election Day - No School	
November 9	Early Release	
November 16	Early Release	
November 17	HS Evening Conferences	
November 18	MS Evening Conferences	
November 19	EL Evening Conferences	
November 20	Half Day/P.M. Conferences	
November 23	Early Release	
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break	
November 30	Early Release	
December 7	Early Release	
December 14	Early Release	

Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Winter Break
January 4	Early Release
January 11	Early Release
January 18	MLK Day - No School
January 20	Half Day - HS Only
January 21	Half Day - All Levels
January 22	Half Day - All Levels
January 25	Early Release
February 1	Early Release
February 8	Early Release
February 15-16	Mid-Winter Break
February 22	Early Release
March 1	Early Release
March 8	Early Release
March 15	Early Release
March 22	Early Release
Mar. 29-Apr. 2	Spring Break
April 5	Early Release
April 19	Early Release
May 31	Memorial Day - No School
June 9	Half Day - HS Only
June 10	Half Day - All Levels
June 11	Student Last Day - Half Day
June 14	Teacher Last Day - Records

Daily Schedules		
Abbott MS	7:50 a.m 2:42 p.m.	
Doherty Elementary	8:25 a.m 3:17 p.m.	
Gretchko Elementary	9:15 a.m 4:07 p.m.	
Orchard Lake MS	7:50 a.m 2:42 p.m.	
Roosevelt Elementary	9:15 a.m 4:07 p.m.	
Scotch Elementary	9:15 a.m 4:07 p.m.	
Sheiko Elementary	8:25 a.m 3:17 p.m.	
West Bloomfield HS	7:10 a.m 2:03 p.m.	
Transition Center	8:30 a.m 3:22 p.m.	

\*Early Release will move dism in each building.

(248) 865-3672 Abbott MS Doherty Elementary (248) 865-6002 Gretchko Elementary (248) 865-6572 Orchard Lake MS (248) 865-4482 Roosevelt Elementary (248) 865-6622 (248) 865-3282 (248) 865-6372 West Bloomfield HS (248) 865-6722 Transition Center (248) 539-0601

Report absences between the hours of 6 p.m. and the start of the next school day by calling your building's **Safetine**.



#### **LOOKING FOR GOOD NEWS?**

There are many sites out there collecting good news and most of the large newspaper networks have a good news section now.

But here are a few:

Per our School Mental Health Specialist, Lynne Swerhone, the following websites share good news.

The Good News Network

https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org

National Geographic Newsletter (Your Weekly Escape, at the bottom, aggregates stories weekly)

https://www.nationalgeographic.com/newsletters/

The Daily Break - one positive story per day

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/lifestyle/inspired-life/your-daily-break-from-coronavirus/

#### FREE PARENT RESILIENCY WORKSHOP

Today's resources are all about resiliency. Click on the following link for a <u>parent resilience</u> <u>workshop</u> that's currently for free through WhyTry.

Each chapter discusses how to build resilience in yourself and kids. Hope this helps! Enjoy!

- Rabbit and Duck how to reframe our thinking
- Fold Your Arms tolerating discomfort
- Animals & Their Powers focusing on strengths and resilience factors
- Purpose of Household Items (What Can I Do With This?) thinking creatively
- M&M's and Strengths focusing on strengths (could do on zoom with any candy or objects they bring to the camera)

Second, a <u>talk from Mental Health America</u> on strategies to build resilience to isolation & loneliness.

And third, a guide on checking in with others that takes away the mental heavy lifting of figuring out what to ask, and that can help us cultivate resilience in ourselves and others.

Hope you have a good rest of your afternoon

# NEED TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE WITH CLOUD LEARNING?

The following link will take you to a wealth of information about WBSD and Cloud Learning. The Google Form for assistance is at the bottom of the district Cloud Learning page underneath the header that says Technology Assistance, Questions & Feedback.

https://www.wbsd.org/academics/virtual-classroom

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE, QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

- Emergency Chromebook Request Form
- For assistance using technology devices, contact our helpdesk using this **Google Form**.

# NEWLY ELECTED PTO BOARD FOR 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Well here we are at such a bittersweet time of the year. One year is winding down just as another year is reving up. We would like to congratulate and welcome our new PTO board for the 2020-21 school-year.

**President: Jen Amato** 

Co-Vice President: Ashleigh Davis/Stephanie Reynolds

**Treasurer: Vanity Koop** 

**Recording Secretary: Heather Aldrich** 

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Ufuoma Kaplan / Erica Daenzer

We would like to congratulate and welcome Kelly Jacobson who will be our WB School District PCN (Parent Communication Network) representative.

#### COMMUNITY EDUCATION ONLINE CLASSES OFFERED

West Bloomfield School District Community Education continues to provide online enrichment and fun educational opportunities in this virtual environment.

#### FREE RESOURCE: Michigan Virtual - Michigan Cares

Free digital lessons designed to help students in grades K-12 develop the skills required for social, emotional, and mental well-being. <u>Click he</u>re

#### **NEW CLASS Challenge Island**

You're invited on a virtual trip around the world with Challenge Island! Weekly 1-hour STEAM challenges from your home every Wednesday at 6 p.m. All materials can be found in your home.

\$10 per challenge, price covers entire household.

Click here to register, World Tour Island Challenges begin May 6

#### Challenge Island Flyer

Back by popular demand, Sunset Theatre Company presents: 101 Dalmatians Musical Theatre Online Workshop

Learn musical theatre, acting, singing, dance and more! Excellent for both boys and girls 5-12 years and students of all levels!

Click here to register, Tuesday or Thursday classes.

#### **Chess Wizards**

Online Chess Classes for Beginner, Intermediate and Strong Intermediate - Private and Group Lessons - Safe and Secure

<u>Click here to register</u>, online classes begin the second week in May

#### Chess Wizard Flyer

#### **NEW CLASS for Young Adults, Teachers and Parents**

In this class, Amazon's #1 best selling children's author, <u>Kimberly Wyman</u>, will take you through some of the main elements that go into creating a children's book. We'll talk about some of the reasons to create a book, the benefits of being a published author, and the work it takes to get there.

Click here to register, ONLINE on Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 1-2 p.m.

#### **EdReady Math & English**

An online program to help incoming 4th - 8th grade students master a range of Mathematical and English concepts.

More info and to register, click here.

#### **EdReady Flyer**

#### **GRASP 2020**

Greater Retention & Achievement through Summer Practice

GRASP is a home-based program consisting of 9 weekly modules to help students maintain or improve their math and reading skills over the summer. Workbooks provided, this is not an online class.

More info and to register, click here.

#### **GRASP Flyer**

For registration information please contact:

#### andrea.foglietta@wbsd.org

West Bloomfield School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact West Bloomfield School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: Unsubscribe

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.



Staff, students, and families can receive Michigan educational prices!!

#### Now through September 30, 2020

Several of the awarded vendors on the 2020 REMC Device Purchasing Bid are offering discounts to staff, students, and families on computers and accessories purchased for PERSONAL use!

#### INACOMP



REMC prices on awarded HP items for personal purchase! Go to <u>InaComp Special Pricing</u> (www.InaComp.net/remcsavedevice2020). Select and configure your device. Purchase online using a credit card.

#### PRESIDIO



Offering many of **Dell** consumer line products at a discount!

Go to <u>Presidio Special Pricing</u> (http://bit.ly/REMCDP. Click on one of the categories across the bottom.

Shop and make your purchase online with a credit card, chat, or phone.

#### SEHI



REMC prices on awarded **HP** items for parents and staff!

Go to <u>Sehi Special Pricing</u> (https://www.buysehi.com/category.jhtm?cid=1214).

Use your current BUYSEHI login or register.

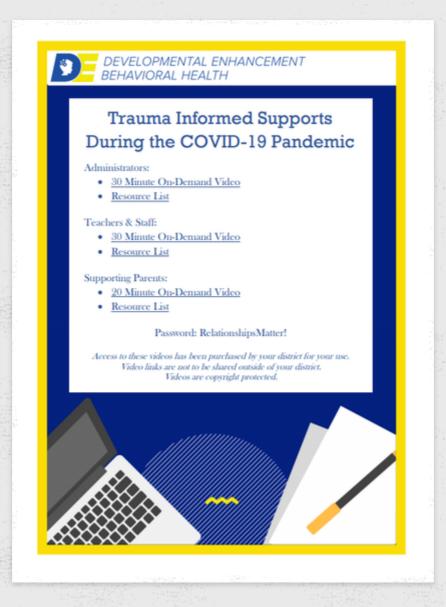
Purchase online using a credit card.

\*\*Due to COVID-19, there are supply chain constraints outside of the vendors' control which may cause delivery to be delayed.\*\*

For questions about products or delivery times, please contact the vendor.



**REMCSAVE.ORG** 



#### KIDS KLUB UPDATE

#### 2020-2021 ENROLLMENT DATE

Important things to know coming up:

- 2020-2021 Registration will begin on Friday, May 22nd.
- Families may register online.
- Your account must be up to date with no outstanding balances.
  - If you register without paying your outstanding balance, then the registration fee will
    be applied towards your balance and your enrollment will be removed.
- If you do not pay the registration fee, the system will not enroll you.
- Once a school reaches capacity, enrollment for that school closes. You may put your child/children on a placement list.
- Enrollment closes August 14, 2020.

#### **REFUNDS THIS SCHOOL YEAR**

All families' refunds have been processed. The refund covers the period of March 16th - April 30th, 2020. The refunds were allocated based on your child/children's schedules and based on how you paid your invoice. For example, people that paid with a credit card were refunded using their most recent credit card we had on file. Many families had to be reimbursed twice because their refund was larger than their last payment and the system will not allow us to refund over what was paid on the credit card. A few families were paid via check. Those who

are being reimbursed with a check, we ask you to please contact Collette if you do not get your refund by May 13.

We thank you for your patience as we processed these refunds.

In closing, please reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns or if there is anything we can do for you. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Stay home and stay healthy!

Laura Poxon

Coordinator of Early Childhood and School-Age Childcare

laura.poxon@wbsd.org



#### KIDS KLUB and TWEEN TIME

Before & After School Child Care 5810 Commerce Road \* West Bloomfield, MI 48324 (248) 865-6468

Tax ID# 386007700

#### Kids Klub/Tween Time Registration

#### Online Registration Begins May 22, 2020

Visit our website at wbsd.org and select "Schools" then at the drop menu select "Kids Klub/Tween Time"

Click on the "Register Now" link for our Online Registration\*

ce on our website you can, also, view the Kids Klub/Tween Time Parent Handbook, pricing information and/or download additional for

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Due to high enrollment numbers, enrollment will be capped for the 2020-2021 school year.

Once cap is reached, we will be unable to accept any more enrollments.

Do not wait to sign up. Kids Klub has limited spaces available!

#### ALL Registration will close August 12, 2020!

- Kids Klub is an elementary school age childcare program available on school days from 6:45 a.m. until the start of school and then from dismissal of school until 6:30 p.m.

   Tween Time is our middle school program and is available on school days from dismissal of school until 6:30 p.m.

- Select your child's schedule:

  Register for the school your child attends.
  Register for 5 days in a week, one day, two days, etc. (Kids Klub: a.m., p.m., or both) (Tween Time: p.m. only)

  - All children must be registered and committed to a consistent weekly schedule a month at a time.
     Schedules must be the same days each week. We are unable to change schedules weekly and we are unable to do an alternate week schedule.
  - Schedule changes need to be made by the 15th prior to the month.
  - A \$10 schedule change fee will be applied for each schedule change.

- Invoices are <u>billed monthly</u> and always <u>billed a month in advance</u>.
- No credits can be given once the month begin
- Invoices will be emailed at the beginning of each month and payments are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

- . Mail or pay in person by Cash or Check
- Pay online by clicking the "Pay Bill Online" link on your invoice transaction fee will be applied
- Set up your account for Auto Pay which will automatically charge your credit card on the 15th of the month. Transaction fee will be applied

To view the Kids Klub/Tween Time Parent Handbook, pricing information and/or download additional forms, visit our website n/kids-klubtween-time

#### **GOOGLE CLASSROOM HELP**

The WBSD suggests the following websites for parents looking for Parent & Family Resources:

From the hub-

Google Classroom for Families: Guardian Summaries Parents' Guide to Google Classroom for Students Learn from Home with Youtube Wideopenschool.org

For families looking for more at home extension resources-Rivet Khan Academy

#### MEAL SERVICE REMINDER

Remember! The district recently transitioned to Meal Service pick-ups three days per week. Families will still receive seven days worth of food per child with pick-ups on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. Pick-Ups will still take place between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. each pick-up day at your pick-up location (Roosevelt Elementary or OLMS)

#### **COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

The West Bloomfield School District is concerned for the safety and well-being of all who work, play and learn within our buildings. We regularly consult with officials from the Oakland County Health Department on matter related to public health. We also partner with Oakland Schools to ensure consistency in outreach and communication related to public health.

COVID-19 Info and Resources

#### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

Office phone Phone - 248-865-6570

Sally Drummond-principal email - <a href="mailto:sally.drummond@wbsd.org">sally.drummond@wbsd.org</a> Kitrina Van Meter-principal's secretary email - kitrina.van-meter@wbsd.org Suzanne Pokley-building secretary - email - <u>suzanne.pokley@wbsd.org</u>

School answering machine - safeline - 248 - 865-6572 -

#### **GRETCHKO STARS**





🚮 wbsd.org/Domain/12

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Below is the link for parents to have the opportunity to review the West Bloomfield School District's Code of Conduct. Please go to the following link to review

**WBSD Code of Conduct** 

#### PTO BOARD MEMBERS -2019-2020

PTO Board for 2019-2020 School Year

Co-President: Katie Palazzolo / Ashleigh Davis Co-Vice President: Amy Risius/Stephanie Reynolds

Co-Treasurer: Vanity Koop/Ufuoma Kaplan

Recording Secretary: Heather Aldrich

Co-Corresponding Secretary: Juliet Jozwick / Erica Daenzer

Board Advisor: Kelly Robrahn

## STRANDED, VIEWS FROM QUARANTINE - BY OLMS

OLMS' Advanced Musical Theater Productions class introduces STRANDED: VIEWS FROM QUARANTINE, a musical coming to the youtube channel nearest you. This is a show you DO NOT want to miss!

