



LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR LEADERS

Dr. Richard Klee, Principal of Taylor High School



My first teaching assignment was to be the science department at a small rural school named Tollesboro Jr./Sr. High School on the edge of Appalachia. I taught all the science courses, six different ones, for grades 7 through 12. I did this while teaching freshman geology courses at the local community college for four years, when I decided to go work on a doctorate. I financed myself and with the dean's permission took 20 hours a semester and defended my dissertation a year and a half after beginning the program. While at the University of Southern Mississippi, I met and married a fellow doctoral student who had taken a leave

from her position in Dearborn, Michigan. I moved with her, after completing my doctorate, to Michigan and subbed for a few months until being hired as a high school chemistry/physics teacher at Dearborn High School. I taught there for eight years, becoming department chair, after only three years. I moved into the position of Math & Science Teacher Leader for the large district and wanted to pursue a curriculum director position. Upon being told that the curriculum director position required building experience, I applied for and became an assistant principal at O.L. Smith Middle School in Dearborn. I continued to look for a curriculum director position was interviewed and hired by the nearby Crestwood School district. I spent twelve years there in a position where I wore many hats including managing state and federal programs, safety, and security, SCECH coordinator, while also subbing for principals when out of the building. I was hired by Taylor Public Schools as their principal last August as Taylor High School principal and love the job and the people I work with every day. It has been a challenging year dealing with the COVID epidemic and virtual & F2F learning, but it has reinforced the importance of schools not just for academics but also the emotional support we give.

THE NEWEST SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Vicky Horth resigned her school board position for personal reasons and has been replaced by Kyle Wright a John F Kennedy 2017 grad. He currently is a student at Central Michigan University.

Hi, my name is Kyle Wright. I am a current senior at Central Michigan University pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in political science and public and nonprofit administration and a double minor in leadership and sustainable environmental policy. I attended the Taylor School District from pre-k to high school, graduating from John F. Kennedy High School in 2017. The motivation associated with me wanting to be on the school board is rooted in my dedication to my community, students, and staff. As a former student, I saw and experienced firsthand the struggles that my community faced, whether it was in the form of a lack of leadership or through the lack of opportunity and hope. Now, as a community member, I continue to see and feel the similar failures of those who are supposed to have the students' and communities' interests at heart. My motivation grew because I knew that the district deserved better leadership. Leadership that would broadcast the many successes of Taylor and who would bring innovation and transformation into the district's daily operation. My hope for the Taylor School District is that we can become an innovative district that infuses hope and opportunity into the hearts of our



students. I hope that the TSD will become forward-thinking while preserving the rich history, allowing previous traditions to continue while designing new traditions that will follow. I hope that staff will want to work in our district, live in our community, and raise a family in our school system. I hope that Downriver will hear and see the success stories that come from Taylor and realize it is a testament to the grit, dedication, and resilience of our staff, community, and students. I want to close by saying thank you to the current board for trusting in my leadership to serve the Taylor School District and the Taylor community. - **Kyle Wright**

If you have not joined the alumni association yet, why not?

It's so easy. Just make out a check for \$25, include the school and year you graduated, and mail it to:

Taylor Alumni Association

11501 Beech Daly

Taylor, MI 48180

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

MUSIC AND ART IN THE CONSERVATORY

Schedule is out for great Music in the Park – Beautiful Taylor Conservatory. Every Wednesday evening 5:30 – 8:30 in the park or indoors if rain. One of the best concert series in the State and all for \$5. Starting June 2 with a yearly favorite the LL7 group.

TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU



The Taylor Made market will be open every Wednesday starting June 2nd inside the Sheridan Center Open Air Pavilion in Heritage Park. Market hours will be 2-6.

FLETCHER DISCOVERY TRAIL STORYWALK

Friday June 11 at 2:30 the Taylor Community will be hosting a ribbon cutting for the StoryWalk Trail, which will occur along Fletcher Trail near the Tiny Taylor Library. This is open to the public.

AN ATTEMPT AT A LITTLE HUMOR



They call it a family tree because if you look hard enough, you'll always find some sap in it.

PLEASE OFFER YOUR ASSISTANCE

We hope everyone enjoys the Alumni Newsletter. Keeping our alumni and school staff connected is the main reason for our Association and our newsletter, but we need your help. We need stories about our alumni. We want you to tell us about your experience in Taylor schools, teachers or individuals that inspired you, what you remember about your school days, stories of friendships formed that have lasted, and, sadly, alumni that we have lost too soon. **Please email your stories, ideas, and suggestions to tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com.**

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GRADUATION

- Plans to provide the Taylor High Seniors with many activities and ceremonies are underway.
 - Senior Day Activities in the football stadium- music, lawn games, Senior King and Queen, food, and more-----Senior Drive-in Movie Night -
 - Senior Farewell Parade Wednesday June 2nd in Heritage Park -all this and more building up to Graduation June 3rd in the Taylor High School Theater.
-

Your Alumni Scholarship recipients this year were each awarded \$500:

Grace McClain has been accepted to both Wayne County Community College and Eastern Michigan University. Gloria wants to be a Veterinary technician. She received all A's and B's her last two years of High School.

Wyatt von Hoffman will be studying to be a conservationist at Eastern Michigan University. Wyatt graduated 4th in his class and received an A in every class he was in.



Taylor High's Varsity Baseball Team played a game at the old Tiger Baseball Stadium site on the corner of Trumbull & Michigan Avenue in Detroit. What a memorable experience.

DONATION

The Taylor Alumni Association and Taylor School District thank Sharon Kenny Vespremi, a JFK 69 grad, and Ron Vespremi, a JFK 68 grad, for the donation of a piano. It will be used to enhance the music program at McDowell Elementary School.



OBITUARIES

The Alumni Association members would like to extend their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the former classmates mentioned below. You will forever be in our thoughts and prayers.

Please Note: If we receive deaths from the past that are not listed in our newsletter, they will be posted on the “In Memoriam” section on our website. If you know of a deceased graduate that is not listed in the Memoriam section of our website please let us know the name, school, graduating class and date of passing.

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

- ✚ Derrick Schiff, Class of 1982 (passed July 5, 2020)
- ✚ Timothy Reminder, Class of 1977 (passed April 6, 2021)
- ✚ Michael Taylor, Class of 2004 (passed April 21, 2021)
- ✚ Ernie Yatros, Class of 1977 (passed May 20, 2021)

TAYLOR CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

- ✚ David Garner, Class of 1962 (passed February 14, 2021)
- ✚ Linda Farmer Baatz, Class of 1970 (passed January 21, 2021)
- ✚ Sharon Holland Cruden, Class of 1964 (passed May 13, 2021)
- ✚ Patrick Lennon, Class of 1973 (passed March 10, 2021)
- ✚ Jackie Bachman, Class of 1984 (passed February 2021)
- ✚ Lorenzo (Ben) Moner, Class of 1973 (passed May 13, 2021)
- ✚ Barbara Freeman Nowland, Class of 1962 (passed May 10, 2021)
- ✚ Judy Sumner Neiman, Class of 1960 (passed May 18, 2021)
- ✚ Thomas Biro. Class of 1962 (passed February 2021)

JOHN F KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

- ✚ Kenneth Edwards, Class of 1966 (passed March 18, 2021)
- ✚ Michael Lumia, Class of 1976 (passed April 8, 2021)
- ✚ Frank Dupon, Class of 1972 (passed May 2, 2021)

continued next page...



OBITUARIES (Continued)

STAFF

- ✚ Ronald Konarski, retired teacher, Hoover & West Jr. High, and Taylor Center & Kennedy High Schools (passed May 8, 2021)
- ✚ Ellen Marie Hodges, retired teacher, Kennedy & Truman High Schools (passed November 19, 2020)
- ✚ Joyce Valentine, cook (passed December 11, 2018)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website tayloralumni.org and click on "In Memoriam".