

## Alumni Association

*Keeping Ties with Our Alumni*



**TAYLOR**  
School District



February 2019 Newsletter

## LET'S MEET OUR LEADERS



**Dr. Mary Ann Cyr,  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Curriculum and  
Instruction.**

**M**y name is Dr. Mary Ann Cyr and it is an honor to serve the Taylor School District. I have two sons, Daniel and Michael. Daniel is currently in the Peace Corps and will then attend Tulane University in July to complete a Masters' Degree

in Business Analytics. Michael is working full time as a welder.

My University degrees include a Doctoral Degree in Leadership and Supervision, an Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership and Counseling, a Masters' degree in Educational Organization, a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in English Literature and a minor in French Literature. I also write and speak French fluently.

My career history consists of 24 years as a public educator,



six of those teaching grades kindergarten through grade 12, five years as a high school assistant principal and the past two and a half years as the Taylor School District's Assistant Superintendent. I have also worked as a adjunct professor in the Department of Education at Siena Heights.

The Taylor Alumni Association welcomes Mary Ann Cyr to our district and wishes her the best in her endeavors. Note: Dr. Cyr is Acting Superintendent during Mr. Williams (the current Superintendents Absence.

Taylor Alumni Association  
11501 Beech Daly Road,  
Taylor MI 48180  
[tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org)



## GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAYLOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Congratulations to the Taylor High School Deca Program. Under the direction of Carly Lundgren Barnard, forty seven students competed, representing Taylor High in the district competition at Eastern Michigan University and came away with 35 students advancing to State competition.
- The Griffin 9th grade girls' basketball team won the Southgate Invitational Holiday Tournament. Congratulations to the 9th grade girls and Coaches Ford and Harrell.
- After school tutoring has begun every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:30 pm.

### Donors

We cannot thank the donors enough for their generosity

Chris Hopgood	Elementary Teacher and Administrator
Tom Schuck,	JFK 1976
Jim Trebilcock,	Friend of Northern Michigan University

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Bob Haarala

Responding to several requests for information on Bob Haarala.

First a little background on one of the most popular teachers and administrators to serve in the Taylor School District. Bob graduated from Northern Michigan University with a Math Major in 1959. He immediately started his career in Taylor, accepting a math position at Brake Jr. High. While teaching he continued working on advanced degrees and earned a Masters Degree and then a Specialists Degree in Secondary Education from Eastern Michigan University. Mr. Haarala then taught math at Taylor Center High and John F Kennedy High. His talents and personality were known by all and he was encouraged to become an administrator. First an Assistant Principal at Taylor Jr High, next an Assistant Principal at Taylor Center High and then on to the board office as Assistant Superintendent. At all levels Bob Haarala earned the respect of students and staff. Bob retired in 1998 but still maintains contacts with students and staff in the School bowling league and golf league. Bob still lives in Plymouth and is active in Taylor activities.

Mr. Haarala was recently honored by a student he worked with in Taylor Jr High in the 1970's. he made such an impression on the student,

Eric Gaffka that recently Eric contacted John Pantalone and asked how he could show his admiration for Mr. Haarala as an administrator and even more so as a person. Eric decided to finance a scholarship in Mr. Haarala's name. He asked that Bob establish the criteria and the award will be presented by Bob to a graduate of the class of 2019.

A great honor to one of the most deserving people. I am sure the hundreds of students and teachers Bob came in contact with will agree.



## THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING IN THE CITY OF TAYLOR

► The old courthouse in the Taylor Municipal Complex will soon be converted into a new Media Center and Veteran Museum.

► The Petting Farm's popular cow Gracie was very sick and passed away on November 15th. She was a big attraction at the farm. Gracie can't be replaced, but in her stall



### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

For young and for old,  
A place at the table,  
A voice to be heard,  
A part in the song,  
The hands of a child  
In hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old,  
The right to belong.

will now be two miniature cows approximately 36" - 42" tall. The city came across the opportunity to purchase the miniature cows and thought they would be a great addition to the farm.

A "Name the Cows" contest will run through the end of January, then their names will be chosen in February.

► The 2019 City State of the Address is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019 at the Lakes of Taylor. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

### A LITTLE HUMOR

DO YOU HAVE A DATE FOR  
VALENTINES' DAY?

YES, I DO. FEBRUARY 14TH.



# ALUMNI NEWS!

We would like to give a big thank you to Alumni Association Team. These are the individuals that keep the Alumni Association Going. We invite you to please consider becoming part of this fine core by volunteering to be a reporter.



President	Mary Swartout Rusnak
Vice President Taylor Center High	Judy Barnhart LaFleur
Vice President John F Kennedy High	Ken Renner
Vice President Harry S Truman	Sheri Engelbrink
Treasurer	Nancy Miller Mascaro
Secretary	Roseanna McGuckin Hammons
Obituary & In Memoriam Admin.	Caroline Patts
Staff Contributor	John Pantalone
Social Media	Chuck Bonner
Graphic Design	Michele Milledge Stephens
Reporter	Donna Hoffman Sigler



## Sports Schedule for Taylor High (Home)

There will be home games on the dates listed below but the visiting teams have not been finalized. Call the Athletic Department at 734-374-1200 for more information. February 5th-8th, 12th and 15th Home Games with Opponent to be Announced.

### ***Basketball - Boys***

February 1st      Henry Ford Academy JV 5:30 Varsity at 7:00 pm

### ***Basketball - Girls 9th Grade JV and Varsity***

February 5th      Allen Park 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm & Varsity at 7:00 pm  
15th      Wyandotte 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm & Varsity 7:00 pm  
12th      Lincoln Park 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm & Varsity 7:00 pm  
26th      Trenton 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm & Varsity at 7:00 pm

### ***Swimming - Boys***

February 7th      Wyandotte 6:00 pm

## 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.*

### **Taylor Center High School**

Christine Bolton Pierson, Class of 1984 (passed November 6, 2018)

Adam Bennett, Class of 1989 (passed November 21, 2018)

Kathy Stewart Norell, Class of 1970, (passed December 3, 2018)

### **John F Kennedy High**

Jonathan Mazgai, Class of 2016 (passed January 12, 2019)

Donald "Chipper" Wilkersom, Class of 1993 (passed January 9, 2019)

### **STAFF**

Sharron Demeter, teacher (passed December 7, 2018)

For more information about the deceased and their families, please visit the alumni website [tayloralumni.org](http://tayloralumni.org) and click on "In Memoriam".