**District Vision Statement**
Michigan Center School - The cutting edge leader in educational advancement empowers all students for life-long success in a changing world.

**District Mission Statement**
The mission of Michigan Center School District is to engage, challenge and motivate life-long learners toward excellence through innovation.
It seems like we say this every year, but truthfully, the 2018-19 school year is off to the greatest start I’ve experienced during my 15 years with Michigan Center Schools. We have experienced all of the things that enhance the culture at each of our schools. Our students are happy and healthy; our buildings and facilities look and function beautifully, and our staff is motivated and committed to moving us forward. Put it all together and you’ve got an excellent environment where our students will thrive.

Though things are going well, we are committed to continuous improvement. In order to continue to move forward, we need input from our community. We have tried various things during the past few years. We have created surveys. We created a Parent Advisory Committee. We always receive some feedback, but not nearly as much as we would like. We want and need more feedback from the Cardinal Community.

Please consider this article an invitation to collaborate. I would appreciate direct feedback about what we can do to connect with the community. The Parent Advisory Committee has been a valuable resource, but the numbers have not been strong. We need to connect with a larger audience. How do we make that happen? This is not an attempt to change policy, cause waves, or do anything earth-shattering. The purpose is to receive genuine feedback from the Cardinal Community so that we can impact positive change for our students, and in effect, our community. If you have any ideas, or if you’re interested in continuing this conversation, please call (517-764-5778) or email (brady.cook@mccardinals.org) at your earliest convenience.

Snow Day Information
As I write this there is a distinct chill in the air. That means it’s getting cold, and colder days (and snow!) will be here soon. If the decision is made to cancel school you’ll be informed via telephone, Twitter, Facebook, Jackson Radio Works stations, Channel 6, Channel 10, and Channel 47.
This fall the Cardinal Marching Band premiered the “Pop Rocks” show at home football games, the Vandercook Lake Marching Invitational, and the Chelsea Exhibition. We also welcomed another huge freshmen class and have 80 kids in the high school band this year!

Please join us for our first showcase concert at the high school, “Cardinals on Parade!” on Wednesday, October 24 at 7pm! Check out the 7th and 8th grade bands, high school drumline, jazz band, and the marching band!
The third graders at Keicher Elementary have had quite an eventful fall so far. They started the school year learning new routines, procedures, and learning how to navigate a new building. They have had their first Cardinal Connection experience, they have been able to participate in their first Keicher Homecoming week, and they were able to bounce in the fun houses for MC Mania. They dressed up like twins, wore their pajamas, and even wore clothes that didn’t match! Additionally, the third graders have had several guest speakers come, some of which have included Lori D., from CP Federal Credit Union, Laura R., from Jackson District Library, and Mr. & Mrs. Frank from Jackson Kiwanis Club. They have learned about the importance of saving money and using a dictionary. They have done a lot of learning, and they are excited for what the rest of the school year will bring.

6TH GRADE GOES TO CAMP
Sixth grade students and staff headed to Somerset Beach Campground this month to take part in two days of outdoor learning and team building activities. Despite the rain, students enjoyed canoeing, zip-lining, animal and plant exploration, the “Gold Rush” game, and even a hayride that ended IN THE LAKE (yes, this was planned!). Sixth grader, Preston Hamilton, shared his best memory of camp: “My favorite part was archery because I have never used a bow and arrow before. Now I know how to use them.” Taylor Bennett’s favorite activity was geocaching because she “got to use a GPS tracker to find the cache.” Jadae Stevens enjoyed canoeing the most: “I’ve never been on anything other than a pontoon. It was my first time being in a kayak and a canoe. It was fun!” A huge thank you to all of our parent chaperones who attended camp. We greatly appreciate your support, patience, and positive feedback!
We are off to an amazing start to the school year at Arnold Elementary this year. Students have been working hard in the classroom, teachers have been forming everlasting relationships, parents have been volunteering and working hard with their students at home, and our new staff are getting acclimated. Some highlights so far include:

- An amazing MC-Mania fundraiser
- Meeting the ‘Principal’s Challenge’ and getting to turn Mr. Desmarais into an ice cream Sundae
- An awesome season by our cheerleaders and flag football players
- New playground equipment (and more updates scheduled)
- Re-design of the front office
- Completing our first round of testing including the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, and MDE Early Literacy & Math Benchmark Assessment
- A successful fall plant and pumpkin sale
- Great Storyfest and NED school assemblies

Parents are encouraged to continue to follow the drop-off and pick-up procedures to help make things run smoothly. Reminder: All students are to be dropped off at the playground between 8:00 – 8:20. Reminder: Pick-up line doesn’t open until 2:45. Please form two lanes on the West side of the school and merge to one lane at the North end of the school. Do not get out of your car and if you need to buckle your child in, please pull forward ahead of pick-up zone to complete.

**New Staff:**
- Jennifer Hicks – 2nd grade teacher
- Kelly Vieau – 1st grade teacher
- Ginger Vincent – Technology teacher / Math Leader
- Alicia Bially – Special Education teacher
- Mindy Hommerding – Teacher Aide
- Ashly Baker – Teacher Aide
- Chris Pohl – School Liaison Officer
- Tom Jaakkola – School Liaison Officer

Thank you for supporting MC Mania!!! The school reached their goal. Thank you MC PTO for organizing this amazing fundraiser.

**Energizing Education**

Energizing Education at Arnold School is up and going strong for the 2018-2019 school year. A huge thank you United Way and our community sponsors: Royal Adhesives & Sealants (now an HB Fuller Co.), Industrial Steel Treating Co., Dawn Food Foundation, Alro Steel, Jackson County Intermediate School District, American Office Solutions (AOS), Comcast Internet Essentials, The Kiwanis Club, Tri County Water, the Herman Miller Foundation and all our community mentors invested in Michigan Center Schools through Energizing Education.

If you are interested in becoming a reading mentor please contact Lois Dunning @ (517) 990-6070 or Email ldunning@uwjackson.org