

45TH ANNUAL

West Michigan Student

SHOW CASE



MARCH 24 — 6 PM
Frauenthal Theater

**THE PREMIER TALENT SHOW
ALONG THE LAKESHORE!**



PRESENTED BY:

Muskegon Area Intermediate
School District

westmishowcase.org



ABOUT THE SHOW

West Michigan Student Showcase 2026 is the 45th annual celebration of excellence in high school youth in West Michigan.

Students are selected by their respective schools in the competitive areas of Digital Media Arts, Literary Arts, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. Monetary awards are given in the competitive categories for first, second, and third place, including a Showstopper Award in the Performing Arts category.

Learn more at westmishowcase.org

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Patrick O’Leary & Karen Yamasaki



The Family of Gary W. Ostrom



In Memory of Florence Cassell



PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

HOST: Jodi Byers

PRESENTER: Tim Lipan

PERFORMANCES—

Mona Shores High School

Group instrumental performance of “Uptown Funk” by Mark Ronson, performed by 9 Cents featuring Kamryn Cree, Carly Fishel, Jude Hill, Brooklinn Martin, Weston Ridgeway, Chance Sobczak, Ryker Tourcotte, and Ava Williams.

Spring Lake High School

Duet performance of “Agony” from *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim, performed by Isaac Hansen and Evan Thompson.

Mason County Eastern High School

Solo instrumental performance of “My Way” by Paul Anka, performed by Hannah Kluth.

INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL ARTS NOMINEES

Ravenna High School

Solo vocal and instrumental performance of “Everywhere, Everything” by Noah Kahan and Gabe Simon, performed by Claire Patterson.

North Muskegon High School

Group vocal and instrumental performance of “Man I Need” by Olivia Dean, Tobias Jesso Jr., and Zach Nahome, performed by Fifth Set featuring Sophia Corbin, Chloe O’Connor, Ella Potts, Sylvia Skujins, and Ava Williams.

Calvary Christian Schools

Group dramatic performance of “Vanity Fair” from *Pilgrim*, a musical based on *Pilgrim’s Progress*, by Janice Landry and Cathy Mays, performed by the Light Bearers featuring Summer Coleman, Abigail Colunga, Alaina Engel, Madison Harris, Sophia Harris, Marin Keeler, Nathan Lahti, Hailey Mastbergen, Caleb Miller, Natalie Miller, Ceyde Nass, Aria Newmyer, and Loreli Workman.

Holton High School

Group dance performance to a compilation of “Milkshake” by Kelis, “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz, “U Can’t Touch This” by MC Hammer, “Trap Queen” by Fetty Wap, “The Humpty Dance” by Digital Underground, “1, 2 Step” by Ciara and Missy Elliot, and “What Was I Made For?” by Billie Eilish, performed by the Supreme Steppers featuring Kailey Evarrt, Marcus Newell, and Kollin Nichols.

INTRODUCTION OF LITERARY ARTS NOMINEES

Reeths-Puffer High School

Solo dance performance to “Cellophane” by FKA Twigs, performed by Madelyne Frang.

Hesperia High School

Vocal duet performance of “Anything You Can Do” by Irving Berlin from the musical, *Annie Get Your Gun*, performed by Hannah Hiddema and Christopher Hiddema.

Muskegon Heights Public School Academy

Group dance performance to “Bomb Squad”, performed by The Big 3 featuring Nayona Gregory, Dynastii Hapson, and Precious Thomas

Shelby High School

Solo instrumental performance of “Clair De Lune” by Claude Debussy, performed by Casey Lamblin.

INTERMISSION

Reeths-Puffer High School

Group instrumental performance of “Five Nights at Freddy’s” by 8-Bit Big Band, performed by the The Be-Bop Rockets featuring Peyton Estep, Jaxson Flora, Ella Jourden, Asher Kolmus, Judah Kolmus, Murry Kuipers, Kiron Koenig, Aidan Little, Aidan Mrotz, Blake Miller, Annabell Pumfery, Kason Scheel, Chase Wescott, Lilly Yeomans.

Mason County Central High School

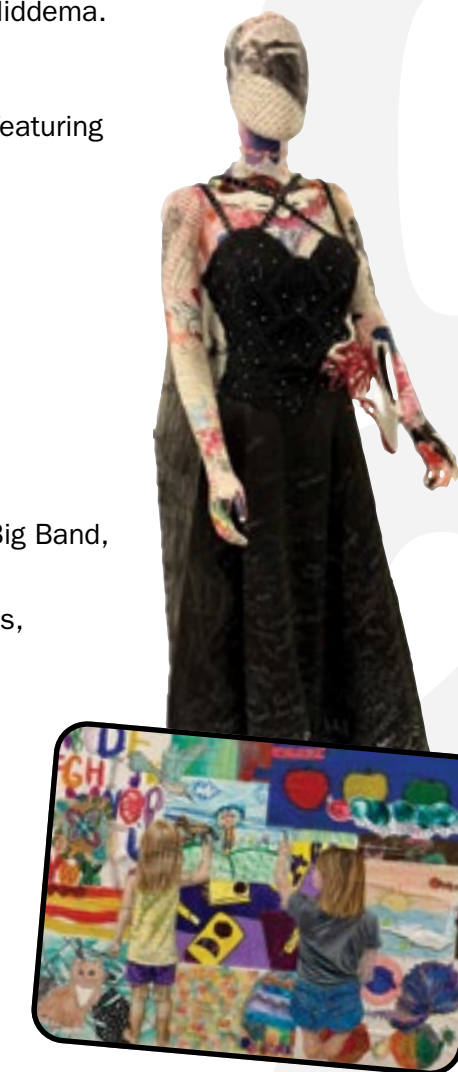
Solo vocal performance of “Something’s Gotta Give” by Johnny Mercer, performed by Colton Lange.

Calvary Christian Schools

Vocal and instrumental duet performance of “Dusty Bibles” by Josiah Queen, performed by Grace Baas and Elliot Case.

Shelby High School

Group instrumental performance of “Bare Necessities” by Rolland Kernen, performed by the Vengeance Quartet featuring Joselyn Calixto Sanchez, Adelaide Fleming, Michael Neino, and Cael Omness.



“Releasing Emotions” by Lorelei Kersting (top), “Do it for Her” by Alyssa Ellison (bottom)

PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION OF VISUAL ARTS NOMINEES

Spring Lake High School

Group instrumental performance of “CANtastick + Boom-wacka-wacka-wacka-Boom” by Crockarell and Brooks, performed by RTM Productions featuring Gabe Angelini, Hannah Beecham, Lydia Brown, Peter Conley, Hailey Cress, Alex Dull, Addy Maloney, Libby Manzer, Keegan Ryan, and Cole Snyder.

Fremont High School

Solo instrumental performance of “Peace Sells... But Who’s Buying?” by Dave Mustaine, performed by Luke Gasparich.

Holton High School

Duo instrumental performance of “Can’t Help Falling In Love” by Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore, and George David Weiss, performed by Joey Bayne and Jacob Bayne.

Muskegon High School

Solo instrumental performance of “For the Damaged Coda” by Kazu Makino, Amedeo Pace, and Simone Pace, performed by Ronaldo Razo.

North Muskegon High School

Solo vocal and piano performance of “When We Were Young” by Adele, performed by Sophia Corbin.

Muskegon Heights Public School Academy

Solo dance performance to “Girl Fight” by Brooke Valentine, performed by Paris Fletcher.

Mona Shores High School

Solo vocal performance of “Astonishing” by Jason Howland and Mindi Dickstein from the musical, *Little Women*, performed by Catherine Conrad and accompanied by JaiLynn Petrie on piano.

Clockwise from Top: “Oaxacan Gorilla Animal Sculpture” by Caden Bowyer; “Nostalgia” by Anna Burden; “Perspective” by Jane Howard; “Elegance” by Gracie Knudsen



NOMINEES

DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

WCTV White Cloud High School

February 9, 2026

Jacob Chiles, White Cloud High School

The Making of a Perfect Short Film

Drew Coleman, Western MI Christian High School

Things We Leave Behind

Christian Graves-Orcutt, Muskegon High School

Who We Are

Bodey Lawler, Pentwater High School

In Between

Vi Le, Reeths-Puffer High School

A Quintessential High School Story

Karma Miller, Mona Shores High School



SCAN TO VIEW DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS PIECES

LITERARY ARTS

Ignorance is Bliss

Life from the Lake’s Perspective

Pointer, Ring, Pinky, Middle

Gabrielle Benedict, North Muskegon High School

Based on a True Story

Ava Berghuis, Holton High School

Don’t Ban Books—Teach Students How To Read Them

Fiona Biasell, Spring Lake High School

Life

School

Nature

Addison Broton, Whitehall High School

One Last Dance

Sirrie Buitendorp, Fremont High School

Never Shall I Forget

Capsized

My Mind Is a Storage Room

Chloe Case, Calvary Christian Schools

Her Mind’s Evergreen: A Couplet

The Siren: A Villanelle

Athena: A Sonnet

Grace Chasco, Mona Shores High School

Four hours

Pinatas in my pocket

Olivia Dykstra, Shelby High School

NOMINEES

LITERARY ARTS continued...

After Gold
Whispers Through the Wilderness
Sugared Laughter

Kloe Graham, Hesperia High School

Dreams
Wrinkles
Your World

Aaliyah Jordan, Muskegon High School

A Museum of Almost

Aurora Pelham, Ravenna High School

The Dichotomy
The Ghost That Haunts Me
Breathe Me Back to Life

Abigail Poort, Fruitport High School

The Twisted King

Anthony Spaniak, Reeths-Puffer High School

The choice
Just once

Faith Troost, Mason County Eastern High School

A Forsaken Tundra

Aiden Verbanic, Montague High School

Who's land

Emma Werkema-Grondsma, Pentwater High School



Left to Right: "She Blooms in Pieces" by Yen Ta;
 "The One's Unspoken" by Sanijah Shepherd



SCAN TO VIEW LITERARY ARTS PIECES

VISUAL ARTS

Raw

(Acrylic paint and colored pencil)
 Elaina Acker, Holton High School

Oaxacan Gorilla Animal Sculpture

(Clay animal sculpture)
 Caden Bowyer, Whitehall High School

Nostalgia

(Oil paint)
 Anna Burden, Orchard View High School

Do it for Her

(Multimedia)
 Alyssa Ellison, Spring Lake High School

Perspective

(Graphite)
 Jane Howard, Pentwater High School

Releasing Emotions

(Mixed media)
 Lorelei Kersting, Reeths-Puffer High School

Elegance

(Acrylic paint)
 Gracie Knudsen, Newaygo High School

Dreamscape of My Becoming

(Acrylic on canvas)
 Alison Masterman, Oakridge High School

Revision

(Acrylic and thread)
 Sophie Mettler, Mona Shores High School

Untitled

(Graphite)
 Alaina Parrott, Calvary Christian Schools



Clockwise from Top:
 "Metamorphosis" by Emma Smith;
 "A Symphony of Style" by Alivia Walker;
 "Untitled" by Alaina Parrott

The Vanishing Point

(Sharpie and ink)
 Lola Perry, North Muskegon High School

The One's Unspoken

(Acrylic painting)
 Sanijah Shepherd, Muskegon Heights Public
 School Academy

Metamorphosis

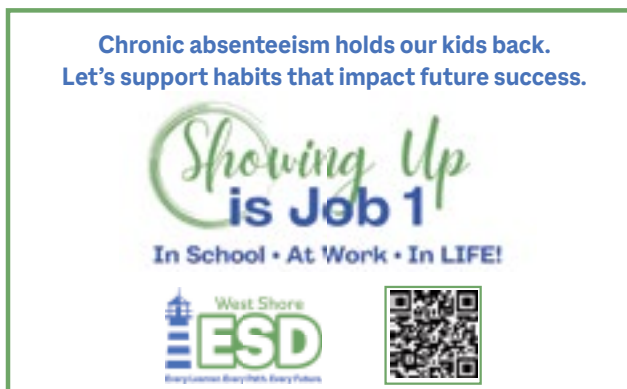
(Oil paint)
 Emma Smith, Shelby High School

She Blooms in Pieces

(Ceramic)
 Yen Ta, Muskegon Catholic Central High School

Carton of My Garden

(Clay)
 Jessica Vandelier, Montague High School



NOMINEES

VISUAL ARTS continued...

Eternal Companions

(Visual arts-painting)
Ashe VandenBerg, Fremont High School

A Symphony of Style

(Acrylic markers)
Alivia Walker, Ravenna High School

Damocles

(Oil paint)
Apollo Watson, Fruitport High School

Scatter-brained

(Pen and ink, collage)
Vivian Witmer, Muskegon High School

Field of Eternity

(Digital art)
Emily Young, Mason County Eastern High School



SCAN TO VIEW VISUAL ARTS PIECES



THANK YOU!

Executive Producer..... Heidi A. Sunderhaft
Producer Kathryn Nash
Director..... Andrew J. Zahrt
Technical Director/Stage Manager..... Jennifer LaChapelle
Host..... Jodi Byers

Presenter Tim Lipan
Script..... Heidi A. Sunderhaft
Kathryn Nash
Jax Holmberg
Website Management..... Envigor

PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Designer/Board Operator Carter Brown
Sound Engineer Ken Reinecke of Pro Audio
Audio Technician Tim Reinecke of Pro Audio
Highlights Video Threadgill Productions
Lit./Visual Video/Video Segments Threadgill Productions
Fly Rail..... Stan Shank

STAGE CREW

Spotlights Olivia LaChapelle
Oliver Olson
Backstage Ashtyn Schlee
Josiah Bazan
Gabe Luna
Logan Ruiz

CATEGORY & JUDGE COORDINATORS

Digital Media Arts & Literary Arts Chris Amaya Gilchrist
Visual Arts John Nash
Performing Arts Dick and Sandy Nolan

VIDEO CREW

Dennis Threadgill (Producer/Director)
Oscar Sipe
Tanya Barnes
Trent Alphenaar
Taylor Threadgill
Kodey Howland

JUDGES TABULTOR

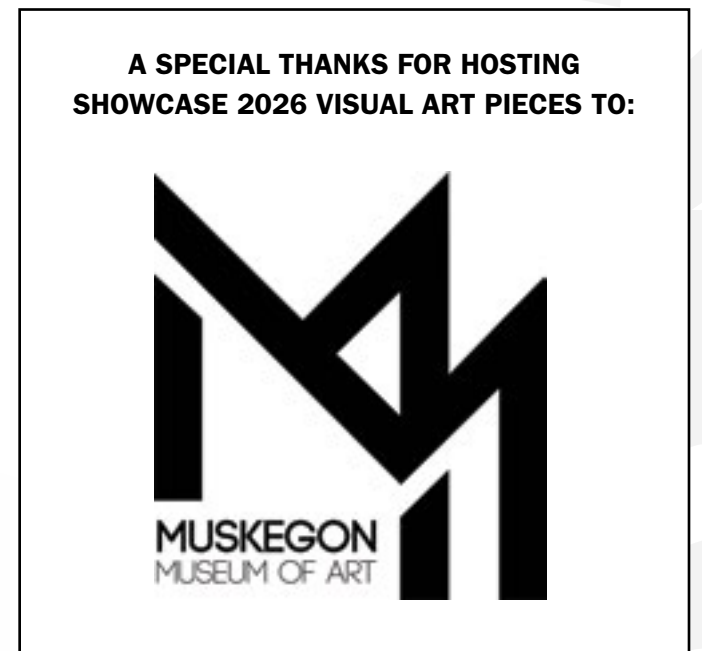
Sheila Reinecke

WORKSHOP CRITIQUE PANELISTS

Philip DeYoung
Molly Lawton
JaiLynn Petrie
Tim Lipan
Jennifer LaChapelle
Andrew Zahrt

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Joel Selby
Gregory Zydyk
Kristin Sunderhaft
Holly and Sean Deur



THANK YOU!

JUDGES

DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

Andy O'Reilly

Broadcaster since 1989, founded O'Riley Media Group in 2015, pioneering digital media in Muskegon with platforms like The Muskegon Channel and offering B2B audio and video production services.

Jake Vankersen

Born and raised in Muskegon, Jake is a Columbia College Chicago graduate. He has been working as a video producer and independent filmmaker for 20 years. He currently lives in Chicago with his wife and their 3 kids. On any given weekend, you can find him at a movie theater watching a movie.

Ryan Compeau

Born in North Muskegon, Ryan is a graduate of Central Michigan University. After a decade long stint in the television industry covering sports all over the country, Ryan is excited to be back calling West Michigan home again.

PERFORMING ARTS

Kirk Wahamaki

A theatre generalist with over 40 years of experience, having retired after 18 years as Artistic Director for Muskegon Civic Theatre and from teaching theatre at Muskegon Community College. His extensive career spans directing, performing, and scenic, lighting, and sound design across numerous regional theatres, with recent directorial credits including Ragtime, Always...Patsy Cline, and the locally produced film, Old Heart.

Miya Rollenhagen

Producer for the Miss Michigan Pageant and former owner of Cassell Gymnastics and Dance.

Danielle Santos

A lifelong musician and co-founder of the rock and funk band Delicious, having performed throughout the West Michigan music scene alongside artists such as Heart, Eddie Money, Toto, and Spyro Gyra. Today Danielle channels her passion for rhythm and creativity into teaching preschool children the joy of musical expression.

LITERARY ARTS

Mary Tyler

Taught literature and film at Muskegon Community College for 33 years and led the Muskegon Writers' Series for over 20, bringing renowned authors to the Frauenthal Theater. Now a part-time massage therapist, she enjoys family, the arts, live music, and daily walks with her collies along Lake Michigan.

Michael Schanhals

An educator, coach, and National Writing Project Fellow with more than 30 years of experience, currently serving as Head Coach of the Hope College Men's Lacrosse team and Education Specialist at Eli Review. He holds a master's degree from Michigan State University and has authored AP Literature and AP Language test prep books for Barron's Educational Series. He is passionate about helping students and educators reach their full potential.

Colleen Zahrt

A past Showcase winner who is now a creative writing and poetry teacher with Poppen Programs, as well as the development and events manager for Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities.

VISUAL ARTS

Heather Placko

Curator of Education at the Muskegon Museum of Art, bringing years of experience in interdisciplinary museum education in Illinois before focusing on art in museum education in Muskegon. A North Central College graduate in English and Creative Writing, she also serves on the board for The Poppen Program.

Louise Hopson

Owner and operator of Art Cats Gallery and clay artist.

Susan Wink

A studio artist and arts educator currently serving as Assistant Director for the Arts Council of White Lake - Nuveen Center in Whitehall. She holds a B.S. in K-12 Art Education from Western Michigan University and an MFA from Indiana University. Her career spans teaching art to all ages, maintaining a professional studio, and building community-based public art.

SCHOOL COORDINATORS

Mandalyn Keeler - Calvary Christian Schools

Julie Anderson - Fremont High School

Lauren Chesney - Fruitport High School

Jennifer Copenhaver - Hart High School

Miguel Escobedo - Hesperia High School

Erik Carlsoln - Holton High School

Roxanne Chye - Mason County Central High School

Shelly Rife - Mason County Eastern High School

Rogena Burgess - Mona Shores High School

Jay Mulder - Montague High School

Jodie Railing - Muskegon Catholic Central High School

Dawan Harrison - Muskegon Heights Public School Academy

Greg Nimtz - Muskegon High School

Casmara Karris - Newaygo High School

Shana Woodwyk - North Muskegon High School

Sara Goodrich - Oakridge High School

Bryan Merchant - Orchard View High School

Shelly Hugo - Pentwater High School

Lisa Romans - Ravenna High School

Kristia Whitaker - Reeths-Puffer High School

Lara Kludy - Shelby High School

Ann Henke - Spring Lake High School

Kathryn Becksvoort - Western MI Christian High School

Holly Bowman - White Cloud High School

Carrie Jensen - Whitehall High School

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