

LCS Staff News
OCTOBER 2023



'Seismic' Impact: LEADER Fund's Support Felt Across LCS

In this Edition:

- > **LCS bond update**
- > **Progress can cause headaches**
- > **Staff shoutouts**
- > **Annie's BIG nature lesson**

Since its inception in 2015, the LEADER Fund has been a beacon of support for the students and staff of Lapeer Community Schools. The Foundation, focused on the advancement of the District's educational and athletic programs, has invested more than \$300,000 in our school district, profoundly shaping the futures of countless students and enhancing the educational landscape of the community.

"There are no words to fully describe how much we have benefited from the work of the LEADER Fund and its generous supporters," said LCS Superintendent Matt Wandrie. "This foundation was formed with little more than the desire of a small group of people to make a big impact in our school community. Eight years later, you can see evidence of their commitment in every one of our schools ... it's seismic."

Over the past eight years, the Foundation's commitment has continued to grow in the form of scholarships, grants, and direct donations to our classrooms. These have helped pave the way for student success both in and out of the classroom. The funds have not only supported individual students but also led to significant improvements in school infrastructure, improving learning environments for students and staff making them more conducive to academic and athletic success.

Continued on page 2

For Doug Lindsay, who has served as the head principal of Lapeer High School (LHS) for over a decade, LEADER Fund has been a godsend.

“Every school has needs that, without the help of the community, might never be met,” he said. “In our school, we’ve benefited tremendously from the generosity of LEADER Fund year after year.”

Last school year marked yet another milestone for the LEADER Fund, as 14 deserving LHS seniors were awarded scholarships, helping to alleviate the financial burden of post-secondary education. These awards will have a long-lasting impact on our students as they strive for success in college and beyond. And it doesn’t end there.

The contributions of the LEADER Fund aren't limited to scholarships. One of their most impactful initiatives is the **Power Project**. Through this initiative, LEADER Fund has invested thousands of dollars in everything from science collaboration stations to public address system upgrades and building signage (see above right).

At the Zemmer 8-9 Campus, the District invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to get students Chromebooks to enhance their academic opportunities. To protect this investment, LEADER Fund donated the funds to buy hundreds of protective cases for Chromebooks so that their positive impact on learning could be long-lasting.

“In the life of a principal, often the solution to problems boils down to funding, something that we don’t always have to match our needs,” said Dr. Jeff Stanton, Zemmer Principal. “Over the years, we’ve come to count on LEADER Fund to meet many of those needs.”

Over at Murphy Elementary, soon students will have an updated nature trail with signage created by the Advanced Manufacturing students at LHS, thanks to a generous grant from LEADER Fund.

At Turrill Elementary, a tree was purchased to provide shade for students on the playground for years to come. Across town at Schickler Elementary, students learned about Michigan history due to a grant from LEADER Fund. And there’s so much more.

Summer Putnam, LCS Board of Education President, has seen the impact of LEADER Fund’s generosity up close during her tenure on the Board.

“The LEADER Fund has been instrumental in driving positive change in our community,” she said. “Their support goes beyond finances; it's about a commitment to doing what’s best for our students, a direct investment in the future of Lapeer.”

The LEADER Fund's dedication is a shining example of how community initiatives can have a long-lasting and transformative impact on education. As they move forward, the Foundation remains committed to their mission, always looking for ways to empower and support the future leaders of Lapeer Community Schools. Funding for LEADER Fund’s mission comes from the foundation's three major fundraising events as well as the generous annual support of its partner organizations.

We are incredibly grateful to the following organizations for their support of our students and staff in partnership with the LEADER Fund: Choice One Bank, Jim Riehl’s Friendly Automotive Group, McLaren Lapeer Region Michele & Company Fine Jewelers, Mott Community College, Sovita Credit Union and View Newspaper Group.

It is our desire that our staff and the greater school community continue to support their mission, and to patronize their partner organizations. Without them, we cannot be the school district that we strive to be every day.

For more information about the LEADER Fund or to contribute, please visit their official website at LeaderFundLapeer.com.

FULLY OR PARTIALLY-FUNDED POWER PROJECTS (2022-23)	
Lapeer High School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gym sound system Decorative covering, main entrance 	Schickler Elementary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground equipment Michigan History Alive
LCHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrichment enhancement 	Lynch Elementary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound system Walkie talkies
Zemmer Campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chromebook protection initiative Lightning signage/decals 	Turrill Elementary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground shade/tree purchase
Rolland-Warner Campus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science lab collaboration stations Campus security and branding 	Murphy Elementary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Trail update (coming soon)



Preliminary Timeline

LCS 2022 SCHOOL BOND

PROJECTS	2023				2024				2025				2026			
	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
Safety + Security (Includ. Schickler Reno)	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue												
CFI Demo + Renovations	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue												
Elementary Multi-Purpose Additions	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue					Dark Blue							
Elementary HVAC Renovations		Green	Green	Green	Light Blue				Dark Blue							
High School Classroom Additions		Green	Green	Green	Light Blue				Dark Blue							
High School Auditorium Renovations					Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue							
High School + Middle School Renovations					Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue							
Asphalt + Concrete Paving									Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Bus Garage Renovations									Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
District Wide Roof Replace									Green	Green	Green	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue

DESIGN

PROCUREMENT

CONSTRUCTION



October 2023 Bond Update

Two of our major projects at the Center for Innovation - West Campus are drawing to a close. As you may have noticed, the brand new south end parking lot, just adjacent to the tennis courts, is almost completely finished. We just have a few loose ends to tie up before it is done and dusted in time for Homecoming. The new lot offers 151 parking spaces along with a new retaining pond that will help with our water problem that has plagued the area around the tennis courts for years.



Moving north, the demolition project of 80,000 square feet of the Center for Innovation is drawing to a close. This was a huge undertaking that has lasted all summer and now into fall. Between site preparation and asbestos remediation, the majority of the time on this project occurred before the first wall came down. We will also finish the brand new concrete sidewalk in front of CFI in the next few weeks.

The next major projects to be undertaken are the elementary multi-purpose rooms at Murphy, Schickler and Turrill Elementary Schools. Those projects are in the early stages of the process and will continue throughout 2024. You should also see signs of renovation work at elementary restroom facilities this fall and winter.

Onward and upward!

Questions? Contact Jared Field, Director of Communications, at Jared.Field@Lapeerschools.org or visit LapeerBond.com.

Progress Can Cause Headaches



As you know, the 2022 LCS School Bond was passed to fund essential infrastructure and facility upgrades across our district. This long-overdue initiative signifies our community's commitment to provide the best possible learning environment for our students and staff.

With that in mind, I wanted to remind you of something I referenced during the opening day message: *progress can cause headaches*.

With such an extensive project list, there will inevitably be periods of disruption and inconvenience in one or more of our buildings as we navigate this journey. Construction zones might appear, familiar pathways could be rerouted, and some unfamiliar faces in hard hats will begin to show up on school property. While we'll do our utmost to minimize these disruptions, as evidenced by our current demolition project at CFI, there will be moments of inconvenience.

With that said, let's keep the bigger picture in mind: These small detours represent progress, our community's investment in a brighter future.

In the face of these changes, we ask for your patience, understanding, and collaboration. We believe that communication is vital, so expect regular updates on progress. For those of you at the elementary level, who have seen the fencing go up around the footprint of what will be brand new multi-purpose rooms, your time has arrived. For the rest of you, your time will come at some point in the next couple years.

Thank you for your dedication to our students and for being an essential part of this exciting phase in the District's future.

Bolt Up,

Matt Wandrie - Superintendent



STAFF SHOUTOUTS

Julie McCallum

Julie, our Dean at Schickler Elementary, takes her job very seriously and works hard at building relationships with parents, students, and staff. She is always willing to help wherever she is needed, and her positivity radiates wherever she is. We are grateful for you, Julie!

Brian Badder

A big Thank You is in order for Brian Badder, our Director of Operations. He put in an incredible amount of time and resource, alongside his team, to ensure that we were ready to go on the first day of School at Schickler Elementary. As you may have heard, we ran into some logistical issues at the building resulting from the summer construction project in the open classroom wing. Brian made sure everything was in order and that our students and staff had everything they needed to start school. Great job, Brian!

Sue Miller

This is a HUGE shoutout to Sue Miller at Lapeer Virtual Partnership for making her students and families a priority. She has made time to drive to several of her students' homes to meet their families. In the virtual world, you don't always get to meet the families, so Sue has made this a priority. She met with four families in one day! Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

Kim Brown

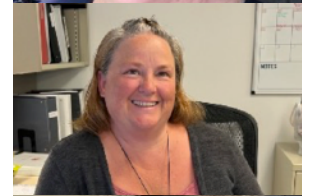
We are grateful for the dedication and attention to detail we see everyday from Kim Brown. Kim has stepped up and taken a big role in the Operations Department at ASC. She is eager to learn and is a hard worker. We are glad to have her in our department!

Renee Soenen

From a proud LCS parent: We just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate Mrs. Soenen, social worker at LHS. Our student has anxiety and was able to use the coping skills and strategies to seek the appropriate supports from Mrs. Soenen and the LHS staff. It's nice to see the level of trust and rapport that our student has established with the staff at LHS.

Jennifer Olko and Holly Atkins

The LCS Special Education Office wants to give a huge shoutout to our Early Childhood Special Education Teachers, Jennifer Olko and Holly Atkins. Jen is returning to the ECSE program after her rookie year last year, and Holly is joining the ECSE team this year. These two have spent the last month working together to prep their classrooms to welcome back our preschool crew. They bring a positive attitude and a smile to their classrooms each day, and go out of their way to make our students and their families feel welcomed, safe, and secure. Thank you Jen and Holly, we couldn't do it without you!



Do you know someone on our staff deserving of recognition?

Recognition isn't just about noticing the big events, it is about recognizing the small things along the way that have a big impact. When you send a submission, please name the employee, share specific info about what they did and why it was important to you. If possible, please send a photo. Please submit your own staff shoutout to [Jared Field](#) prior to the 20th of each month.

Notes from Central Office



Do you know someone looking for a new gig? LCS has numerous openings for coaches, bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, paraprofessionals, teachers, support staff and more!

If you know someone who is interested, please send them to Applitrack via this link ([LCS Job Openings](#)) or tag them in our social media posts related to hiring. Thanks!

COUNT DAY

10

04

23

Let's get butts in seats!



Fall COLT Visits Coming Soon

As you may know, each fall the Central Office Leadership Team (COLT) visits all District facilities for a dual purpose: to honor employees who are receiving years of service pins, and to present information about long-term goals and strategic planning for the District. This year, Superintendent Wandrie will focus his presentation on the status of the 2022 Bond and the future projects funded by its passage.

See the schedule for these visits below:

Building Visits for COLT - Fall 2023

A&SC	October 24 – 10:30 AM
Center for Innovation	October 3 – 9:00 AM
Kids & Company	October 13 – 8:00 AM
Lapeer High School	October 30 – 2:15 PM
LVP/Cramton	October 23 – 12:30 PM
Lynch Elementary	October 11 – 8:00 AM
Murphy Elementary	October 12 – 8:00 AM
Rolland-Warner Campus	October 5 – 2:15 PM
Schickler Elementary	October 4 – 8:00 AM
Transportation Department	October 25 – 9:00 AM
Turrill Elementary	October 5 – 8:00 AM
Zemmer Campus	October 11 – 2:30 PM

Notes from Central Office

Green Themes

with Outdoor Ed Coordinator Beth Rupprecht

Get Outdoors this Fall and Enjoy our Beautiful State

Fall in Michigan, with its crisp, cool air and beautiful foliage, offers a wealth of outdoor activities to help employees relax, recharge, and rejuvenate after a long school day or on the weekend. If you're looking to make the most of the season, here are some tips for things to do in the fall in Michigan:



Color Tours: Michigan's fall foliage is truly a sight to behold. Traverse City, Porcupine Mountains, and the Tunnel of Trees along M-119 are some of the state's best spots for enjoying the fall colors.

Apple Picking: The state is chock full of apple orchards where you can enjoy the pleasure of picking fresh apples. Check out Past Tense in Lapeer (pictured lower right) or Porter's in Goodrich.

Corn Mazes & Pumpkin Patches: Experience all the twists and turns in corn mazes or find the perfect pumpkin to carve. You can take a hayride to the pumpkin farm at Fick's Farm in Lapeer.

Hiking: Michigan has a large network of trails for hikers of all levels of all levels and abilities. You can explore the Sleeping Bear Dunes, Tahquamenon Falls (pictured), or the trails around Mackinac Island.



Canoeing and Kayaking: There is no better time to experience Michigan's waterways than with the peak fall colors. The Au Sable, Manistee, and Platte Rivers are just a few of the best places to paddle up north during fall but you can also stay home and paddle. There's river access at Rotary Park in Lapeer!

Haunted Tours: For those who enjoy a touch of spooky fun, check out [Past Tense After Dark](#) or the after-hours creepiness that is the Rolland-Warner 6-7 Campus.

Remember to take some time for yourself. Winter will be here before you know it!

Open Enrollment is coming Nov. 1-17

Open Enrollment Plan Information and Rates will be emailed to staff in mid-October. Information night will be held on Thursday November 2 at 6 pm via Zoom for employees to learn about MESSA's Plans and FSA/HSA spending accounts.

Plan Calculator: Learn about MESSA's health plan options and use the [plan comparison tool](#).

Recipe of the Month: Pumpkin Roll

Compliments of Laura Mihm, Auxillary Special Education Secretary, ASC

Ingredients

- ¾ c. flour 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking powder 1 c. sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon 2/3 c. solid pumpkin
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice 1 c. chopped walnuts
- ½ tsp. nutmeg Powdered sugar
- ½ tsp. salt Wax paper/Crisco



"Cotton candy, sweetie go, let me see that pumpkin roll!"

Directions

- Use a jelly roll pan, 15x10x1 inch, or a cookie sheet. • Grease bottom of pan. Line with wax paper; grease top of wax paper and sides. Dust with flour.
- Mix all dry ingredients in a small bowl. Set aside. In large bowl, beat eggs and sugar until thick and fluffy.
- Beat in pumpkin. Stir in dry ingredients. Pour into pan and sprinkle with nuts.
- Bake for 15 minutes at 375 degrees.
- Loosen around all sides with knife. Flip over on damp dish cloth dusted with powdered sugar.
 - Peel off wax paper and trim ¼ inch off all sides. Roll up from short side with cloth.
 - Place seam side down on wire rack until completely cooled (about one hour).
 - Unroll cake and spread with cream cheese filling.
 - Roll up again without the towel. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Keep refrigerated.

For cream cheese filling, you can beat together:

- 1 c. powdered sugar 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, 1 tsp. vanilla
- Softened

Attention Foodies!

If you would like to submit your favorite recipe for submission in this space, please send it to Jared at Jared.Field@Lapeerschools.org. Make sure you send it before the 20th of the month for submission.

Looking for a Fun Activity for the Littles?

For October and all things spooky, here is a fun K-3 activity brought to you by Renae Bess, Resource Room Teacher at Murphy Elementary:

As we gear up for Halloween, have your students read up on spiders, gather facts about them, then make a spider hat and write a fact on each leg.

Materials

- Black construction paper
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- White crayons to write facts on legs



Have fun!

Annie's BIG Nature Lesson

Two of Schickler Elementary's finest, Kendra Carter and Rachael Fisher, have had the opportunity to take their second and third graders to Seven Ponds Nature Center in the fall for the last two years. This trip is made possible thanks to generous donations from our community.

"We both have been teaching for over 26 years and this is the most rewarding and exhilarating week of our career," Fisher said. "The kids enjoy this memory for a lifetime. We encourage any teacher wanting this experience to contact Seven Ponds and get the training."

The BIG Lesson was initiated in 1999 by Margaret Holtschlag, Michigan Teacher of the Year (1999-2000) as (1) a professional development model for immersion learning; (2) a study trip for students, parents, and teachers, and; (3) a partnership between community resources and mid-Michigan schools. BIG Lesson programs are happening at community sites in Lansing, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Dryden, Marshall, Ann Arbor, and Battle Creek.

In the BIG Lesson model, students, teachers, and parents use community resources (museums, zoos, nature centers) as their classroom for a week. Changing the concept of the traditional field trip to a week-long interdisciplinary study trip, this experience includes investigations, behind-the-scenes tours, presentations by community experts, and groups of students working cooperatively on research. Parents are actively involved in the learning activities as well as student service projects. During the week, students are able to participate in service learning activities and research projects as well as the creation of community action plans.

Teachers receive extensive training in The BIG Lesson model to learn about integrated curriculum, lesson design, place-based education, cooperative research, scientific inquiry and content, visual note-taking, thematic instruction, and identification of community resources. Teachers continue this professional development throughout the school year with workshops and online discussions to share resources and lesson plans.

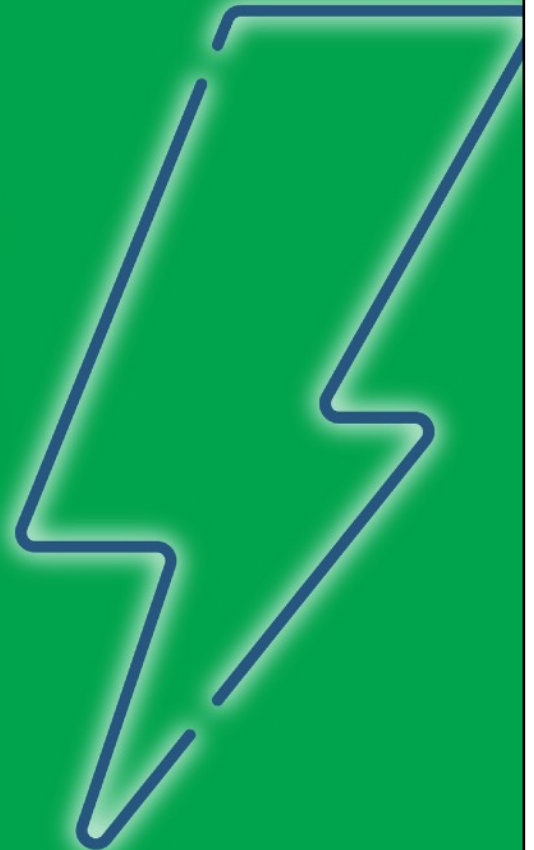




T-Shirts Still Available!

If you haven't received your BoltUp t-shirt, please email Jared Field, Director of Communications, at Jared.Field@LapeerSchools.org. We would love for all employees to rock these shirts (or any other Lapeer shirts) on Fridays this school year.

**FRIDAY
SCHOOL
PRIDE
DAY**





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[LapeerSchools.org](https://www.LapeerSchools.org)

[LCSblog.com](https://www.LCSblog.com)

Have something exciting to share about Lapeer Community Schools? Don't keep it a secret.

E-mail Jared Field, LCS Director of Communications, at jared.field@lapeerschools.org



Our Murphy Elementary garden has been very productive! So far, Gardening Club has donated a total of 245 tomatoes, 48 hot peppers, 23 green peppers and one watermelon to The Good Samaritans of Eastern Michigan. They were very thankful for the needed fresh produce! Way to go, Kristen Paluch and Gardening Club students!



Congratulations to Coach Tony Merlo and the LHS Girls' Flag Football Team on their \$5,000 grant from the Detroit Lions!



Third Degree Burns Studio Space at CFI Looking Sharp (and Flat!)

Just last week, the new studio space for the Third Degree Burns Music Community was finished at CFI. The space, formerly housing the Baker College CNC Program, had been a mess with the floor heaving up and the hideous maroon paint. Check it out now! Third Degree Burns is a jewel in our community and we are proud to continue hosting them at CFI (their old space was in the north end of the building that has been razed).



Scan the QR code to see our most recent flyover of CFI-West Campus!



Classroom 'Go Bucket' Information

From Joe Wood, Health, Safety, Operations and Athletic Administrator:

LCS Go Buckets should all be located in a place where they are visible and accessible to anyone who may be in the room.

They are not to be used for the following:

- To prop doors
- To hold anything up (there should be nothing on top of the bucket)
- As a stool
- Any other behavior that could damage or impede the usage of the bucket if needed

In addition, please do not use the items in the bucket unless there is an emergency. Please also do an inventory check of the items that are supposed to be in the bucket:

- Rope
- Hammer
- Whistle
- Duct Tape
- Ratchet Strap
- Hand sanitizer
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Pen/Paper
- Emergency Blanket
- Toilet paper
- Bucket
- Garbage Bags
- 6 Bottles of water

If you are missing anything, please let your administration know and they will provide me with a list of items to procure.

Our next areas for concentration are offices, meeting rooms and common spaces. Those indicated areas currently do not have Go Buckets; they are in process and will be in place by the end of Thanksgiving Break.

Lastly, if you have not yet done so, please take some time to unwrap and unravel your ratchet strap. [Please watch this tutorial video if you do not know how to use a ratchet strap.](#) If, after attempting to get familiar with it, you are still struggling, please contact me and either I or an SRO will come around and assist.

Thanks,

Joe (Joseph.Wood@LapeerSchools.org)





At MESSA, your health and well-being are our top priority. That's why we're reaching out to encourage you to take full advantage of your preventive care benefits, especially when it comes to cancer screenings. MESSA offers 100% coverage for cancer screenings when you visit an in-network provider – so you can get the care you need without worrying about the cost.

We want to stress the importance of making routine cancer screenings a part of your preventive care. So, don't hesitate to schedule your colonoscopy, mammogram or prostate exam today.

MESSA is here for you

In addition to cancer screenings, MESSA covers preventive care free of charge for members and covered dependents when you go to an in-network provider, **including:**

- One annual physical per calendar year.
- Up to two gynecological exams.
- A long list of immunizations and vaccinations including COVID-19; flu; pneumonia; tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap); tetanus and diphtheria (Td); measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); and zoster (shingles).

Some age restrictions may apply. We have the resources. Please put them to work for you.

Questions about MESSA Benefits?

If you have questions about your MESSA benefits, you can call MESSA's East Lansing-based Member Service Center at 800-336-0013. MESSA also offers online chat for members and dependents; learn more at messa.org/

Member service representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Optum Rx: Your Home Delivery Pharmacy

Optum Rx is MESSA's home delivery pharmacy, providing convenient and reliable mail-order delivery for MESSA members. Optum Home Delivery offers free standard delivery, as well as useful online tools — including an Optum Rx online portal — to help you manage prescriptions for yourself and your covered dependents.

How to contact Optum Rx

Reach out to Optum Rx if you:

- Need technical support for your Optum Rx member portal.
- Have a question about the status of a prescription order.
- Want to speak to an Optum Rx pharmacist 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To contact Optum Rx, call 800-903-8346 and tell them you are a MESSA member. For all other questions, contact MESSA's Member Service Center.



Optum Rx Portal

You can access your Optum Rx portal by logging into your MyMESSA member account and selecting “Rx home delivery.” In your Optum Rx portal you can check the status of your prescription orders, compare medication prices, and view and manage your prescriptions, and more.

You can also manage home delivery prescriptions for all of your covered dependents. To do so, you'll need permission to view prescriptions for adult dependents and for children age 13 and older with certain sensitive conditions. They'll need to set up their own Optum Rx member accounts at [OptumRx.com](https://www.optumrx.com), and give you access to manage their prescriptions.

If you need help getting an adult dependent set up with their own Optum Rx account, call MESSA's Member Service Center at 800-336-0013 or connect with us via live chat through your MyMESSA member account or through the MESSA app.

Prescription transfers and controlled substances

If you previously received your prescriptions through Express Scripts home delivery, your eligible prescriptions should transfer to Optum Rx. You can check the status of your prescriptions in your Optum Rx member portal.

A prescription will not transfer if:

- There are no remaining refills.
- The prescription is expired.
- An open prescription has never been filled.

The prescription is a controlled substance, which is prohibited from being transferred by law. To verify if your medication is a controlled substance, check the label or call our Member Service Center at 800-336-0013. If these circumstances apply to you or a covered dependent, you will need a new prescription from your health care provider.

When receiving a delivery of a prescription that is a controlled substance from Optum Rx, you will be required to show identification and sign for the delivery.



#FightCancer

PINK OUT

LAPEER VOLLEYBALL

**GRAND BLANC
VS LAPEER**

OCTOBER 3
LAPEER HIGH SCHOOL
F/JV: 5:30 PM
VARSITY: 7 PM
\$5 ADMISSION
DONATIONS WELCOME

Funds raised at this event will be used to purchase care packages for cancer patients from the National Breast Cancer Foundation's HOPE Project.

