

Position Announcement
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Sparta Area Schools

About the District

We are a mission driven school district with a vision of excellence for every child every day. With our ever changing world, every student must be College and Career ready. To that end, we are committed to working toward providing opportunities to ensure success for all. Our core principles include; cultivating a culture of respectful relationships, focus on effective instruction, utilize a data driven decision making model and expecting excellence in all we do. It is our desire that through our core principles we will accomplish our vision targets, which include; differentiating learning opportunities to better meet individual needs that will increase student achievement across all performance levels.

The Sparta Area School District is committed to work in partnership with students, families, and the community. Our goal is to ensure that all students master the essential skills and develop the attitudes and behaviors necessary to function successfully in a changing world. This partnership is committed to guarantee an educational environment designed to challenge all students to achieve their highest potentials.

Strong academics are the basis for all of K-12 learning, beginning with literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. In addition to these areas, we engage students with a wide range of courses and after-school opportunities including Science Olympiad, Yearbook, Website Design, Weight Training, Advanced Placement Computer Science, Advanced Placement Psychology, and Intro to Business at our high school. We also offer after-school opportunities ranging from academic support, to band and athletics. We proudly offer over 30 co-curricular programs, while competing in the Michigan Competitive Bands Association and the OK Blue Athletic Conference. Sparta Schools uses the Gradual Release of Responsibility as our framework for instruction where teachers model, then guide students to understanding, finally releasing them to do independent work. At our middle school, we provide a comprehensive Spanish and

accelerated math option for students. Both of these classes allow students to leave with high school credits by the end of eighth grade. At the elementary level, we offer the Links Program where students connect with other students to be mentors. We also offer Girls on the Run which inspires elementary aged girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experiences-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Sparta After School Intervention (SASI) is offered to assist with language acquisition and vocabulary development for our English Learners.

Sparta Area Schools consists of one Early Childhood Center, one K-2 Elementary building, one 3-5 Elementary building, one 6-8 Middle School, and one High School.

Points of Pride for Sparta Area Schools include:

- New athletic fields/stadium
- New Middle School to break ground fall of 2019
- Renovations to Ridgeview and Appleview Elementaries in the summer of 2017
- Courses available for dual enrollment, concurrent college classes, and advancement placement classes
- KSSN – Kent School Services Network – health and human services into the school building to serve students and families
- Community participation in school events/activities
- *Active theatre/drama program
- 1 to 1 computer devices for students 6-12 grade

About the Area

Paralleling West Michigan's Fruit Ridge, the Sparta Area boasts an atmosphere of tranquility and small town charm. Conveniently located 15 minutes north of Grand Rapids and 45 minutes from Grand Haven, Sparta offers a diverse labor market, employment opportunities, quality schools and abundant housing potential. Perhaps, most notably, are the apple trees covering thousands of acres of rolling farmland all dedicated to the third largest apple industry in the country.

Surrounding Sparta is some of the most scenic and peaceful countryside in Kent County. We are proud to welcome you to Sparta, a great place to grow and itself, an ever changing and growing community!!

District Data:

Enrollment	2500
Teachers	140
Administrators	8
Office Staff	13
Support Staff	20
Aides	40
Counselors/Social Workers	8
Other(OT, PT, Sph, KSSN)	10
Buildings	5

Foundation Grant	\$7,631
Annual Operating Budget	\$27,500,000
Projected Fund Balance	\$2,969,335-10.84%
Tax Base	\$475,401,588
Non-Homestead Levy	18 mills
Debt Retirement	7 mills+1.15 sinking fund

To learn more about Sparta Area Schools, visit the district web site at www.spartaschools.org.

Selection Criteria

Sparta Area Schools is seeking a strong, passionate leader who is:

- An honest and forthright person of integrity with a strong work ethic who is disciplined, fair, and compassionate.
- A committed, assertive, focused, and goal-oriented leader.
- An effective problem solver with the ability to make tough decisions - even if they may not always be popular.
- An excellent communicator who will listen to the concerns of students, staff and the community.
- A leader who clearly demonstrates engagement in and commitment to both the school district and community.
- A leader who inspires and motivates others to reach and/or exceed their potential.
- Someone with a solid foundation in curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development with a track record of improving student achievement.
- A visionary who is both proactive and progressive who will embrace current initiatives and plan for future ones.
- An excellent collaborator who advocates for and builds the capacity of others.
- A leader who sets high expectations for students, staff, the community and themselves.
- A financially savvy and fiscally prudent person with effective strategic management skills.
- Someone whose first priority will always be the needs of our students and who understands and appreciates they are each different and unique.
- An organized, creative thinker who will prudently manage and deploy resources to best meet the needs of diverse learners.
- An individual with a successful track record in educational leadership. Experience as a Superintendent or Central Office Administrator is preferred.
- Someone with outstanding interpersonal skills who can establish and maintain effective relationships with students, staff, the community, and the board.
- A leader who possesses a minimum of a Master's Degree in an education related field or who is able to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of state Superintendent certification within appropriate time lines.

Salary and Contract Information

The Board will offer a comprehensive, multi-year contract. The compensation package will be commensurate with the experience of the successful candidate.

Application Procedure

Interested candidates should complete and submit the Michigan Leadership Institute on-line application found at <http://www.applitrack.com/mileader/onlineapp> and at www.mileader.com.

Completed on-line applications must be submitted **no later than 4:00 pm on May 18, 2018**.

No "hard copy," fax or emailed copies will be accepted. All materials will be treated confidentially through the screening process only at the request of the candidate.

All questions regarding the search should be directed to Gary Rider, Regional President, Michigan Leadership Institute, 616-901-3738 or gridermli@gmail.com.

Search Timeline

Application deadline.....	May 18, 2018
Candidate Screening.....	May 22, 2018
First Interviews.....	May 29 and 30, 2018
Second Interviews.....	June 4 and 5, 2018
Site Visitations (if desired).....	June 11 and 12, 2018
Selection of Superintendent.....	June 13, 2018
Start Date.....	July 1, 2018 or ASAP

The Board of Education may make exceptions to this profile, process and/or timeline to ensure selection of the best possible candidate. The services of Michigan Leadership Institute have been secured to assist the Board in the search process and in the screening of candidates. The Board of Education, solely, will make all decisions with respect to process, evaluation of candidates, and appointment of the successful candidate. Candidates should not contact board members directly or request individual tours of school buildings.

Board of Education

Following are the members of the Sparta Area School District Board of Education:

Andrew Jensen, President
Amanda VanStrien, Vice President
Pamela May, Secretary
Kim Eluskie, Treasurer
Dr. James Kirby, Trustee
Mark Alster, Trustee
Marybeth Dame, Trustee

Sparta Area Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer