

Central Lake Public Schools

8169 West State Street • P.O. Box 128 Central Lake, Michigan 49622-0128

www.clps.k12.mi.us

To Whom it May Concern,

May 21, 2025

I have had the privilege of working with Sylvia Schonauer-Kalchik and Pam Singer to pilot the Antrim Scholars program at Central Lake Middle/High School.

Antrim Scholars is the first program of its kind at Central Lake Public Schools—an honors initiative designed to support both at-risk students and those seeking a more personalized path to college and career readiness, SAT preparation, and post-secondary planning. Until now, a program with this level of targeted and individualized support has never been available to our students.

This initiative brings together students from diverse backgrounds, encouraging collaboration and a shared commitment to building brighter futures. The program offers a rich combination of academic assistance and one-on-one college and career mentorship. The relationships and networks formed through Antrim Scholars—many of which would not have been possible otherwise—are a direct reflection of the vision and support of the Antrim Women's Alliance.

As a school counselor, a core component of my role is facilitating college and career readiness. Most of my available resources are delivered at a Tier 1 level, serving all students broadly. What makes **Antrim Scholars** so powerful is its unmatched level of individualization and support. I truly believe that students participating in this program are more prepared and confident in their college and career paths than many of their peers.

Lastly, I have included two impact statements from teachers who have noticed a positive change in students academic performance, attitude, and participation.

“I believe it has been incredibly beneficial for our students. I've noticed a significant increase in their confidence, largely due to the extra support they're receiving. Many students frequently speak highly of

Central Lake Public Schools

8169 West State Street ▪ P.O. Box 128 Central Lake, Michigan 49622-0128

www.clps.k12.mi.us

their mentors and the positive impact they have on their academic journey. Overall, the Antrim Scholars program offers a wonderful opportunity that truly sets CL apart, and I believe it deserves more visibility.”

“Overall I think it's amazing what these people are doing for our students. I hope the students recognize and appreciate the opportunity they are being afforded.”

Specific student improvements identified are students stepping up in leadership roles, supporting peers in staying on track, improved focus and work ethic.

Needless to say, we are honored and grateful to be in collaboration with the Antrim Women’s Alliance on this pilot experience. Over the past year, we have learned a tremendous amount—not only about how to better support our students, but also about the power of intentional mentorship and community partnership. Most importantly, this program has sparked a renewed sense of enthusiasm and purpose in our students, inspiring the next generation to actively engage in their academic and career planning journeys.

Sincerely,

Mary Spyhalski
School Counselor