



SPRING LAKE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

345 Hammond St., Spring Lake, MI 49456
www.springlakeschools.org

September 6, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Superintendent of Spring Lake Public Schools, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the Grand Haven Children's Museum. Children's museums are open-ended environments that help inspire our next generation of designers, problem-solvers, and collaborators through play and hands-on learning. I believe this new community resource will be a tremendous addition to our students and families, and it is my hope that the momentum and support for the project will continue to grow.

The Spring Lake School District's team of experienced educators knows the importance of rich, connected play and hands-on learning for young children. The new museum will not only be a way to invest in our youngest learners before they enter school, but also a way for our educators to offer enriched, local field trips to our students once they're enrolled.

We know that investments in early childhood education can have a profound impact on a child's educational outcomes. Research on brain development indicates that many of the foundations for a child's future education and well-being are formed very early, with a majority of the brain being developed before the age of three. A children's museum offers our youngest learners rich educational experiences to help lay those strong foundations and create a lifelong love of learning.

The field trip offerings planned for the new museum will be a nice opportunity for our students to spend a few hours visiting the local museum and easily return to campus for the remainder of their instructional time. Our educators are always looking for local, enriching experiences that complement school curricula and keeps our students engaged in fun learning that sparks their curiosity and creativity and helps them learn about the world around them. The interactive exhibits, maker's space, art studio, and STEAM focus planned for the museum will complement our work nicely and make the children's museum a valued partner to our school district.

Much work has already been done by the children's museum's volunteer board of directors and I am eager to see their continued success as they plan this new, local children's museum that will serve our students and families.

Sincerely,

Dennis Furton
Superintendent of Schools