

# Rep. Bishop honors Everest's achievements

BY JESSICA STEELEY  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Friday was a day to remember at Everest Collegiate High School and Academy – they celebrated their 2016 National Blue Ribbon Award achievement with a visit by U.S. Congressman Mike Bishop.

“I thought it was very exciting,” Madelyn Krappmann, an Everest fourth grader.

Krappmann said she could connect with what Bishop was saying because her father retired from a government law enforcement job at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Explosives and Firearms.

Principal Greg Reichert was also excited for the school to be recognized for its success.

“For our students to be able to have the opportunity to be with the congressman and to see someone that’s really serving them everyday – it’s just like seeing their entire education coming full circle,” Reichert said, “Understanding what they’re capable of in the future and seeing that someone who’s actually made it is willing to come back, gives them a chance to see their own successes and what they can do in the future.”

Bishop has visited the school many times and has gotten to know several parents and students. He commends the school for having a reputation of excellence and educators who are well known for what they do.

“To be able to be a part of that small group of 329 schools that have achieved this is really incredible, it’s no small feat,” Bishop said. “It has much to do with their support network around here, their educators, their mentors and their parents who do so much to make sure their students succeed.”



U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop talks to students at Everest Collegiate High School. Photo by Jessica Steeley

Everest, a private Catholic school located off Clarkston Road, is the only private school in Michigan to win the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Award. Reichert credits that success to a focus on integral formation, which focuses on all aspects of growth.

Reichert describes academic growth as being at the center and, as a Catholic school, spiritual formation is the basis of everything.

“From that we make sure we’re focusing on character formation and ultimately, at the end of education, is how do we serve those around us, how do we take that and make something of ourselves, make sure that we’re helping people outside of our own system, outside of our own school,” he said.

The principal said Everest’s striving for recognition distinguishes it from other private schools, and he’s not the only one who views the school as standing out.

Everest eighth grader Blaise Wilcenski thinks the school is amazing because they

get to learn about the Catholic religion. He also praises the teachers.

“They like to interact with the students, you get to know the teachers very well. It’s just a lot of fun,” Wilcenski said.

Bishop said he’s visited all three schools in his district, Michigan’s 8th Congressional District, that received the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Award. However, despite these accomplishments, he said there’s still a lot of work to do regarding the state of education in this country.

“We’re quickly falling behind other countries in the world and we’ve got to make sure we’re doing everything we can to ensure that our local school districts succeed, and trust our educators,” he said, “We’ve got a lot of really, really good educators in this country who would like the flexibility to teach a classroom and not be dictated too much by the central government.”

## Briefly

### Food donations

Especially with Thanksgiving approaching, our thoughts turn to those less fortunate. *The Clarkston News* will collect food donations for Lighthouse Clarkston, on Sashabaw Road.

Drop off donations at the *News* office at 5 S. Main Street through Nov. 18.

### Election results?

These pages went to the printer on Monday before folks went to the polls to make their votes.

Check [Clarkstonnews.com](http://Clarkstonnews.com) for election results and next week’s edition for candidates’ comments.

### Road work

Big Lake Road construction work east of Andersonville Road to east of Ridgewood Road will continue through mid November.

The paving of the gravel road intersection is a joint project of Springfield Township and Road Commission for Oakland County.

### Goodfellow sale

Clarkston Rotary Club’s annual Goodfellow newspaper sales will be on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3, on Clarkston-area streets and Neiman’s Family Market.

Donations will go to the Rotary’s Shoes for Kids program at Oakland Woods Baptist Church on Maybee Road the next weekend. Clarkston area children in need receive boots, shoes, hats and gloves for

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