

James B. Angell Elementary School

Providing an uncommon education for the common man – James B. Angell

Feb. 2020

“I Didn’t Know That!”

Ranking and Recognition

James B. Angell was awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award from the US Department of Education in 2015 for exemplary achievement. Only 285 public schools in the US out of over 98,900 public schools received this distinction in 2015.

Angell was ranked #4 out of over 1,300 public elementary schools in the State of Michigan in 2019. We were ranked #6 in 2018. We earned a grade “A” in 2019 from the Mackinac Center.

Angell has been designated a “Reward School” by the Michigan Department of Education for the past three years. Angell ranks in the top 1% of all elementary schools in the State of Michigan based on student achievement.

James B. Angell has received an “A” on every Michigan School Report Card from the Michigan Department of Education.

From 2011-14, Angell was one of only 20 schools in the State of Michigan recognized for “beating the odds” in terms of student achievement.

In January, 2011, Angell Elementary School was recognized as the University of Michigan’s University Musical Society’s School of the Year.

Angell was designated a “Green Emerald School” in 2019 because of our recycling and ecology efforts.

History and Facts

Angell was constructed in 1923. It was named after James Burrill Angell. He is best known for being the longest-serving president of the University of Michigan (1871–1909).

Approximately 350 students are enrolled in grades Young Fives-5th. We serve four neighborhoods; the North Campus family housing, Huron Towers, the contiguous neighborhood and the Twin Lakes apartment complex. In addition, we serve in-district transfer students. Students come from over 40 nations.

Angell has a diverse student body with 53% of our students reporting a non-Caucasian heritage.

In 2011, the PTO and school introduced a new 18 foot tall spider climber to the playground. Hallway lockers were installed in 2011. In 2013, the PTO sponsored the construction and installation of the “Magic Carpet”, an award-winning 40 foot student study bench. And, in 2014, a

horizontal climbing wall was installed in the gymnasium and a ga-ga pit to the playground. In 2017-2018 nest swings and a zipline were installed on the playground.

The AAPS Department of Community Recreation and Education operates Angell Care – the before and after school care for students and families needing an extended school day. Students may attend before school care beginning at 7:15 A.M. and may stay after school up to 6:00 P.M.

Enrichment and Distinctives

The PTO and school support an active enrichment program directed by a part time staff member that provides outstanding opportunities to extend student learning in grades K-5. This includes extensive field trips to musicals, art museums, orchards, concerts, and science centers. Students in grades K-5 access math and reading software that individually targets specific learning objectives for each child.

Under the direction of the Angell vocal teacher, each grade level class produces a musical at the end of the year.

Angell 5th grade members of the Academic Games Club have won the State Tournament in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015, a feat no other school has ever achieved in the entire history of the games.

The Wolverine Science Health Program, sponsored by the Pre-Medical Club students at the UM, conducts an after school program for upper elementary students.

Angell parents coach the Angell Science Olympiad team (2nd -5th graders) in 20 distinct events and compete in the Washtenaw County competition that is held each year in May.

Jack Lousma, former astronaut, is a graduate of Angell School.

The 5th grade students go camping at Wilderness State Park, near Mackinaw City, each spring. They visit Fort Michilimackinac, Old Historic Mill Creek, sand dunes, Fort Mackinac and tour Mackinac Island.

Building a Caring Community

PTO parent volunteers put together the student directory and yearbook, help in the library, publish the Back Pack News, support teachers' classrooms, organize the book exchange, Ice Cream Social, Angell Talent Show and Fall Picnic, raise money for enrichment activities, assist students in the lunchroom, organize special student events and a whole host of other significant activities.

Each year, the entire school studies countries around the world and works together to sponsor our famous International Night. Angell students represent 40 countries of the world and the International Night event attracts over 425 parents, students and visitors.

Rotary Club members, including UM students, volunteer on a weekly basis to tutor students in reading or assist the students with improving their math computation.

UM students regularly volunteer at Angell by supervising students at recess and lunch, tutoring students one-on-one and working in the classrooms.

The UM Kiwanis students conduct K-Kids, a weekly lunch program that promotes community service. They typically raise money through "penny wars" for the C.S. Mott UM Children's Hospital.

5th Graders serve the student body by helping ensure students cross streets safely. The service squad members guide younger students to their correct buses, serve as helpers in the lunch room and take care of raising and lowering the U.S. flag.

Older students are “reading buddies” for students in the lower grades (Y5 – 2nd).