



*In the pursuit of excellence...*

# Caledonia Community Schools

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## Dutton Recognized with TalentFirst Literacy Leader Award

**Caledonia, Mich.** – Caledonia, Mich. – Dutton Elementary School in Caledonia proudly accepted the prestigious Literacy Leader Award yesterday, in recognition of their outstanding achievement in reading skills.

The award ceremony, held in conjunction with National Reading Month this March, featured remarks from several distinguished guests including State Representative Angela Rigas, Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer, and Dutton Principal Shawn Veitch. Leslie Brown, chair of MetalFlow and a member of TalentFirst, an alliance of West Michigan CEO's, presented Dutton Elementary with this Literacy Leader Award along with a generous award of \$1,000 to further support its literacy initiatives.

TalentFirst President Kevin Stotts also spoke at the ceremony and applauded the school's investment and commitment to literacy.

"We are very excited to celebrate teachers, administrators, and staff of Dutton Elementary for their efforts in developing strong scholars and readers," President Stotts said. "We care deeply about literacy because a strong West Michigan starts with children knowing how to read."

Dutton Elementary was one of five schools spanning the 13-county region of West Michigan singled out by TalentFirst for its exemplary practices and accomplishments in early literacy.

Reflecting on the achievement, Principal Shawn Veitch emphasized Dutton Elementary's commitment to providing comprehensive support systems for early literacy. "Our educators have done a ton of work, researching the science of reading and utilizing evidence-based literacy strategies and curriculum," said Veitch. "This achievement and award mean a lot to me as the leader of the building. It is an opportunity to celebrate the great work of our teachers and the amazing learning achieved by our students!"

The Literacy Leader Award serves as a testament to Dutton Elementary's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and its profound impact on the community's educational landscape.

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