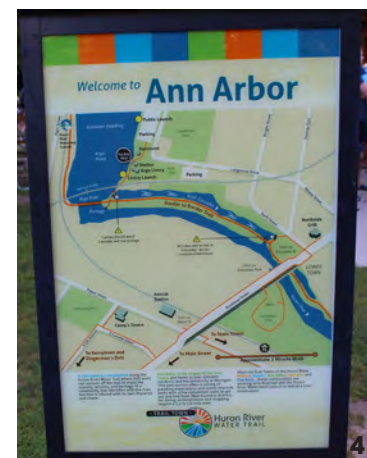




1. Heading through the cascades, special education teachers Nicole Pilkens and Susan Bowes hold their paddles as instructed by the Argo staff. "This was an awesome kick off to our school year," Pilkens said. "I loved seeing everyone smiling, laughing and excited to start our new school year. I hope this is a new Huron tradition."
 2. The bus dropped staff members off at Argo Park at 8:30 a.m. Ninth and tenth grade office professional Angie Gill loads into her boat.
 3. "I got to go kayaking with one of our new art teachers, Lyndsey Vockel," art teacher Kristen Kubaki said. "It was a great opportunity to have fun and get to know each other in a relaxing way. Being outside on the water made me feel more at peace than I can ever remember feeling during our first-day meetings." VISH GONDESI

RIVER RATS ROCK THE BOAT

Staff start their professional development team building on the Huron River



4. The staff embarked on a 3.6 mile trip down the Huron River.
 5. Of all the kayaks that headed out on the river, only a few tipped over. Math teacher Pete Collins and computer science teacher Kevin Behmer made a quick balance recovery and did not take a swim.



6. Social studies teacher Taylor Glinski and math teacher Lauren Taube hit the man-made cascades. "Kayaking was a really refreshing way to get back into 'work mode,'" Taube said. "I felt energized, relaxed and had so much fun connecting with colleagues that I hadn't seen all summer."
 7. After the cascades, Math teacher Jeremy Schuitman enjoyed the morning paddle down the river with his best friends.



8. At the end of the trip, English teacher Bob Fox and art teacher Jonathan Smigell enjoyed sweet treats provided by Washtenaw Dairy. Smigell and Fox have been teaching together for 17 years. "I enjoyed spending quality time with my bestie Mr. Smigell and seeing so many other friends," Fox said. "And not tipping over." VISH GONDESI