

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD DEPARTMENT UPDATES

October 2019

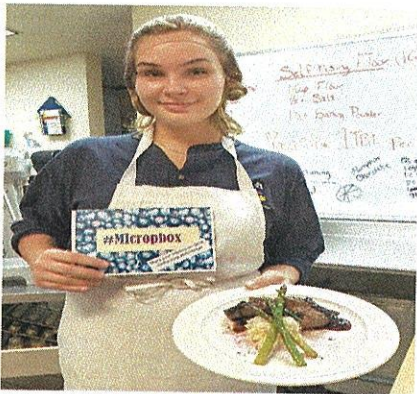
*"Helping Schools
Help Students"*



Career & Technical Education

**Director of CTE Mike Miller
Reports:**

**Culinary Arts Students Participate in
Monthly Cooking Club** Contributed by
Shelli Hallman, Culinary Arts Paraeducator



Matilda (MS) showing off her creation

ProStart, the educational division of the National Restaurant Association, has started a new project for culinary students across the State. It is an optional monthly subscription called Micropbox. Each month, ProStart sends a Michigan product to the class, and the students then have to develop an original recipe for that product. They also have to calculate the nutritional value of the dish they've created. Students send a picture of the dish, a copy of the recipe, and the nutritional value to ProStart. ProStart, in turn, sends the students next month's

product. September's product was 9 ounces of dried blueberries from South Haven.



A couple more of the #Micropbox creations

We offered this project to students as part of our after school, "Cooking Club." We had three students choose to participate. They decided to create a savory blueberry balsamic glaze for pork or beef and paired it with mashed redskin potatoes and sautéed asparagus.

October is College Application Month! Every year, leading up to and throughout the month of October, Career Center staff members focus their career preparation efforts toward college planning activities. This is because October is College Application Month! One of the biggest hurdles college-bound students face is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To assist in navigating these uncertain waters, the ISD annually hosts a financial aid expert from Ferris State University who provides guidance and answers questions about the FAFSA. This year's Financial Aid presentation was Tuesday, September 24th, at 6:30 PM in the MOCC Miller Room. Over 110 students and parents/guardians from across the ISD listened to Melanie Mulder from FSU share information and tips on FAFSA completion as well as financial aid options.



Financial Aid Night at the Career Center

To officially kick off College Application Month, MOCC hosted Jeff Stewart, Assistant Director of Admissions and Recruitment at FSU, to work one-on-one with Career Center students. This was an intentional, hands-on workshop where Jeff and Career Services Coordinator, Jill Ray, assisted students with various steps in the college application process: FAFSA, Parchment accounts for high school transcript submittal, online applications, and more. Although the plan was for Jeff to assist with the Ferris-specific questions and Jill to cover other postsecondary institutions, to his credit, Jeff didn't hesitate if students had questions about applying to other schools.

On just the first day of the month, nearly 20 students either submitted applications or made significant progress on their journey to college. These students had been pre-identified as planning to attend college but also having barriers with which they needed help overcoming. MOCC staff members will continue to assist more students to overcome barriers and become career ready!

Meceola Tech Update

Five classes are underway, and a sixth is scheduled to begin for the fall semester at Meceola Tech. Automotive Electrical, Welding, Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Phlebotomy (through Mid Michigan College) are running with a combined total of nearly 30 students. Eight of these students are participants in the Adult Education 107

Special Programs Grant and are working on their high school diploma or GED.

A CDL-A class is scheduled to begin on October 14th. This class is in partnership with Mid Michigan College and Tri Area Trucking and will consist of three students training for three weeks. Upon completion, these students will have the opportunity to obtain employment almost immediately. According to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, there are 1,625 annual openings for Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers through 2026 projected in West Michigan alone. These positions pay between \$17-\$24 per hour.

We are excited about the opportunities our Meceola Tech students have to obtain employment within our community upon completion of their coursework and attainment of an industry-recognized credential.

Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

In an effort to honor the work of the Board in relation to leading the conversation around Core Values, I am going to organize my report according to these identified values. As part of our departmental goals, staff are contributing to each month's Board Report to ensure all voices have a chance to share their work.

People First Organization:

We are fortunate to be able to partner with the T.E.A.C.H. program to help staff in our

licensed preschool classrooms grow in the knowledge and skills while earning certifications or advancing their degree. Staff who are currently involved with this program (Heather Wilkinson, Kristen Bechaz, and Jessica Snyder) are the authors of this section in this Board Report.

What is TEACH?

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® MICHIGAN links education, compensation, and commitment to improving the quality of early education. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® MICHIGAN is a statewide scholarship program designed to help individuals working in licensed early childhood settings meet their professional development goals while continuing their current employment in regulated early childhood and school-age care settings. T.E.A.C.H. addresses two major challenges in the early education and care field – low wages and high turnover. The scholarship helps increase compensation and the retention of skilled teachers. The education level of childcare providers is one of the most critical indicators of the quality of a child's experiences in childcare.

What Does TEACH Mean To Recipients?

As a TEACH recipient, I have been able to work on obtaining my Bachelor's degree while working. It has also allowed me to complete my degree online so that I can manage my busy family life. It has made my education mean so much more because of the opportunity that has been given to me. It has made me feel that I have a higher standard to live up to and in return, I have pride in my achievements. I was able to attend the early childhood conference this past year at a discounted rate and gained so much valuable knowledge as a result. I have received pay increases and bonuses as a recipient of the scholarship. There are so many opportunities that TEACH has to

offer, and I feel very fortunate that I am a recipient of this scholarship.

How TEACH works:

T.E.A.C.H. is a very easy process to go through. Once you make an application to the program, you will hear from a counselor within a few weeks to get more info and find out if you have been approved. Once that process is complete, you will receive a contract that will need to be signed by you (the student) and your supervisor.

T.E.A.C.H. pays for 80% of the tuition, books, and fees; the employer pays 10%; the staff member pays 10%. This makes getting additional education and training affordable for staff and is a good use of professional development funds as the training directly impacts students in the classroom.

Currently, we have six staff members working through T.E.A.C.H., two who have utilized the program in the past, and three who are planning on using it in the future.

Everyone Together

Submitted by Kalee Coss, Enrollment Coordinator

Partnering internally with other departments is important, as is working collaboratively with other agencies and organizations in our community.

Between the Mecosta-Osceola ISD, NEMCSA Head Start, and Ferris State University Early Learning Center, we have a Preschool Partnership that allows us to collaboratively work through the enrollment season and place students in the program that best fits their family's needs. Working as a team continues to be productive, meaningful, supportive, and fun! I am excited to say that all 165 Great Start Readiness Program slots are full, as well as an

additional 102 Great Start Readiness/Head Start blend slots.

During spring and summer, we hosted a total of 30 preschool round-up dates, as well as numerous individual and walk-in appointments throughout Mecosta and Osceola Counties. At round-up dates we met with families to start the initial application process. After their appointment, each family received a take-home folder that included all of our legal documents as well as community information, a children's book, and a social/emotional magnet! We were also able to attend many community events to meet families where they play! We provided gross motor activities for the children while we interacted with the parents.

Next year, we plan to continue to find ways to make each application appointment as meaningful and informational as possible. Through the Great Start Collaborative, Ages and Stages Questionnaire QR tags have been created to give to families with younger children to help us connect and begin building relationships with families before their children are preschool age.

Thanks for your continued support! Enjoy the coming fall colors!

General Education

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

The General Ed Team:

The General Education Team is excited to embed our strategic plan to work into our daily goals and tasks. Our team has an overarching goal of improving relationships with our local districts. We have set goals

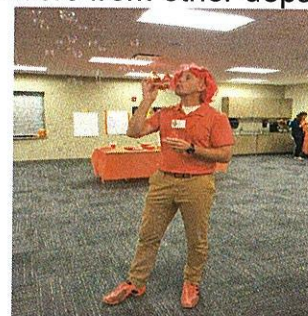
and action items in the areas of communication, culture, and programming. All of our individual goals are aligned to the strategic plan in a way that is specific to the role played for our locals and the MOISD. Again, we intend to share this information and our plan, not only with the MOISD Board (in November) but to also go "on the road" to the local board meetings. We will share a "menu of services" from the Gen Ed Team, along with some successes we have had within our team, as we support our local schools and teachers.

This month our entire team participated in Orange Frog training. What a great day of learning and mindset change! It was a day that challenged the thought process and initiated conversations about what drives us to be better and work in a positive manner.



Team Flying Frogs: Gen Ed/Spec Ed/Preschool

The learning goes beyond "positive thinking" and into the ideas about what brings about success for individuals and groups. It was a fun day, where the entire General Education Team was able to work with members from other departments.



Mr. Fox-participating in "orange"

Early Literacy:

We will continue supporting all elementary schools and teachers per request from the building administrators. Morley-Stanwood Elementary has already booked Amy Posey for several early release days, and she will continue the work in Evart with their Literacy Leadership Team.

Another area of literacy that the MOISD is supporting is through the Mi-READ management platform. It is an instructional tool used to record Individual Reading Plans (IRIP's), along with providing strategies for teachers to use, as they differentiate for the learning in their classrooms. Our technology team is also involved in supporting our locals on this initiative. Mi-READ and the Strategy Bank are branches of the Data-Hubs project. Data is pulled into the platform through the Data Hub.

Joint training between the MOISD, Westshore ESD, and Wexford-Missaukee ISD was held at the MOISD on September 16 for elementary principals, technology support, and lead teachers. The training was well attended, but it did bring about more questions. However, this is positive, as we need the questions brought up before the teachers begin using the platform. Superintendent Locke and Mrs. Harrison will be meeting with individual superintendents to create a document of collaborative partnership between the MOISD and their districts, as it relates to Mi-Read and other literacy supports. We intend to support based on the needs of the locals.

Math/Science:

Justin Fox continues to support our schools (and the Career Center) through Learning Labs, math/science curriculum and coaching, and embedding the Essentials

Practices of Literacy into the math and science content. He is building Family Science and Math nights into his calendar for the local elementary schools, along with the Star Lab.

Behavioral Specialist/Mental Health Supports:

Michael Basauno and members of the MOCRT (Mecosta-Osceola Crisis Response Team) shared information about their team and how they can continue to support the local districts if a crisis ensues. Michael and Emily Bongard shared information at the principal's meetings, and Michael and Angie Thompson shared information with the local superintendents. A large focus is on the "post-event" support and how it is crucial for healing after a traumatic event.

We also have CPI training coming up soon for MOISD and local teams, training is set for October 16-17. The MOISD covers the cost of this training. Michael is preparing to provide an Assisting Individuals in Crisis training later this fall. This training will be available to all of our locals.

Beth Bond has been working on developing referral forms, consent forms, etc. in anticipation of working with individual students in the locals.

Beth has completed CHAMPS coach training and can assist teachers with classroom strategies. By the end of October, she will also have completed her CPI instructor training, giving the MOISD three certified trainers on staff.

In addition, she is working to embed herself in a variety of community meetings, to learn more about the resources available to students, parents, and educators.

Technology

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

MOP Projects:

The mission to create equity of Internet access for students at home and in the community continued as a theme for this month. Project Moonshot is connected to the initiative that Morley Stanwood Community Schools (MSCS) started during the last school year by working with the Thompson Foundation. Over the last few months, we have worked with Phil Stier, MSCS's Director of Technology. This project is working to transform the student's educational experience with modern technology and learning styles.

MiSEN:

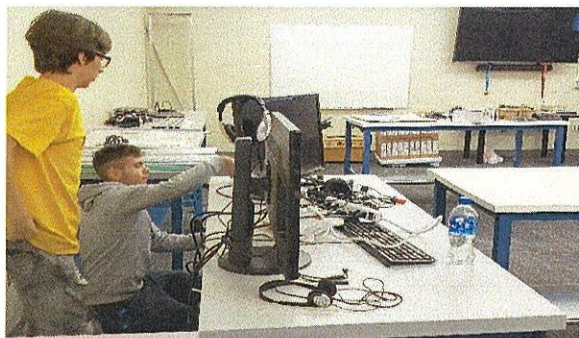
The Michigan State Education Network (MiSEN) is working with Michigan Educational Technology Leaders (METL). These organizations are moving to Phase II of the state project to connect the LEA schools to the Internet. They are working on connecting the local schools and public libraries. We have at least one district that is on the shortlist of being connected to the fiber network. This project would benefit all the LEA schools in helping with resilient Internet connections. The MOISD technology team has also helped the Reed City Area District Library to connect to the MiSEN, working through the Reed City Area Public Schools, this is the first library in the state to make this connection by working with the local school system.

Summer Work:

This summer was a whirlwind of activities. The technology team started the summer by implementing 45 printers and copiers. These new copiers have a feature that will help with the security of student information and provide the ability to print a job from any printer in the district. We also had an opportunity to help Morley Stanwood Community Schools and Chippewa Hills School District through the MOP Co-Op program. We hired a summer intern through Baker College that they shared. By hiring this intern through MOP Co-Op, it allowed him to work with multiple districts while reducing the burden of each district having to do paperwork with him. The intern was Zachary Cousineau, a Morley Stanwood Community Schools graduate. He was a great resource for them. We thoroughly enjoyed working with this young man, and we expect to hear about many of his accomplishments in the future. We had some MOP Co-Op placement changes. Brandon Walter took on a new role at Big Rapids Public Schools; this left an opening at Reed City. ISD Team member, Chad Marshall, has filled the Reed City opening. These changes have left an opening at the MOISD that we are still working to fill.

Career Center Students:

Students from Roger Meinert's information technology program came in over the summer to help set up some Chromebook carts. We enjoyed working with these students, and it was a good opportunity for them to get some actual work experience.



Students setting up technology hardware

Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

Marie Chapman, MOISD School Social Worker, facilitated the “How Are You Implementing CHAMPS In Your Practice” discussion at the All Itinerant Meeting during the morning of the first Early Release day on Friday, September 20. The discussions were incredibly productive and positive as each discipline shared various ways in which they work with their local colleagues to help support year two of the CHAMPS initiative. Marie also presented a CHAMPS refresher for all MOISD Special Education staff that afternoon at MOEC. Following the refresher, MOISD Master Teacher Beth Kibler, from our GT Norman Satellite Resource Room, provided “expert sharing” on how she implements CHAMPS in her classroom in Reed City. It was a great day of learning and sharing at MOISD!



The MOISD Paraprofessionals started their Para-Academy following the CHAMPS refresher on Friday, September 20. After receiving feedback from the strategic planning surveys and staff evaluations, quality training for our paraprofessionals was one of our top priorities. The Department has teamed with 321Insight and our own Michael Bausano, Behavior Specialist, to provide quality trauma-informed professional learning every afternoon of the early release Fridays. 321Insight includes video modules, reading assignments, and post-module quizzes that will serve to enhance and improve what our incredible staff already do each day. Christy Miller and Michael Bausano worked diligently during the summer with the 321Insight team to put together a scope and sequence that aligns beautifully with our CHAMPS/trauma initiative. We’re excited to be able to offer such quality professional learning for our staff this year!

I attended our first State Directors’ meeting in Lansing, where the State was excited to discuss the positive visit they had with the Federal Office of Special Education Programs and the improvements that have been made since the designation of “needs improvement” determination that loomed previously. We also received revised/updated guidance on Shortened Days, Counting Discipline Removals, updates on the new guidance for B-13,

Technical Assistance planned for the fall and new guidance for Medicaid and BCBA services. There are always interesting tidbits and surprises that seem to come out of these meetings each quarter.

Christy and I attended our second Cohort 0 meeting with our other fellow Cohort 0 team members. We were very pleased to hear that MDE- Office of Special Education agreed that our General Supervision Monitoring work would dovetail nicely with our Cohort 0 work, so we will not be doing two separate monitoring activities! We appreciate the guidance from MDE-Office of Special Education and the working relationship we have with Director Teri Chapman and her team. The partnerships and learning will be incredibly valuable to both MOISD and our local districts as we progress through this wonderful opportunity.

We welcome Amy Grandy, Parent Advisory Committee Representative from Crossroads Charter Academy. Amy will make a wonderful addition to the team! We hope to have a full Committee when we meet in November.

I facilitated the 7th Orange Frog Workshop on Monday, September 30th. An additional twenty-three MOISD participants graduated and were sent off to Spread the Orange! One of the Special Education Department's goals was to have an Orange Team, and I'm excited to say there are 18 members and counting! Led by Traci Eister-Woods, they continue to spread positivity!



Special Education Supervisor Jenny Knopf Reports:

Can you believe it is already October?
September seemed to fly by for us here at

the Education Center! Students are continuing to learn about school procedures and routines. Staff continues to incorporate our district-wide CHAMPS initiative to clearly visually and verbally communicate expectations to all students.

Our annual Parent Open House and Ice Cream Social took place on Thursday, September 19th. We had a great turnout! Parents were able to meet staff and enjoy "making your own" ice cream sundaes!!! Thank you to students and staff for making this such a fun event!



Open House and Ice Cream Social fun!!!

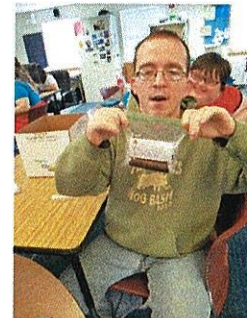
Students and staff enjoyed an afternoon of music on September 27th, thanks to Tuba Bach and guest artists Invoke Quartet. The group entertained us with a variety of music, as well as taught the students a little about the different kinds of instruments they played including the violin, mandolin, banjo, and tuba!

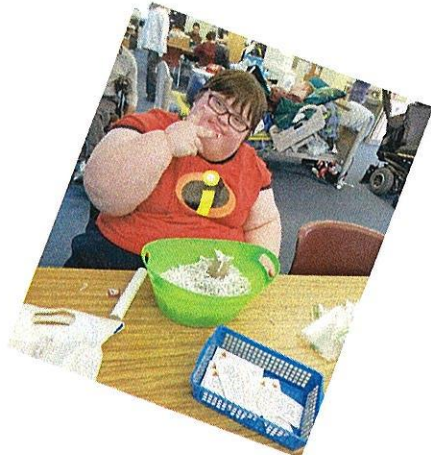


Thank you, Invoke Quartet!!

**This month's featured teacher is
Kathleen Rau.**

Kathleen is the Adult Transition Center – 1 teacher. Kathleen, her staff and students have been busy since school started. They were able to get the fire starters (crafted by students) into the School Section Lake Camp store. They also donated a box of fire starters to the D Bar D "Ride for a Cure" which helped raise \$136.00 for cancer research. We are also collaborating with Career Center students in the public safety program to practice calling 911. Students are out on their job sites for TCLE. They will be starting Boo Bags for the radio station this week, and are working on organizing the Santa Shop in December.





Students working on making fire starters.

Planner/Monitor and Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:

Nine of the MOISD speech and language pathologists (SLPs) traveled to Westfield, IN in September to attend the Indiana AAC Summit and learn more about Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC). This year, speech therapists are working hard to build their capacity in this area. Previously AAC services were provided to locals through one assistive technology consultant. Now, we are working to build the capacity of all of our therapists to deliver those services. The nine therapists who attended are bringing back valuable information to share with their colleagues around core vocabulary, communication circles, and AAC assessment. Throughout the year, the team of nine will be providing professional development to the remainder of the SLP team. The professional learning will transfer skills when working with kids to increase their opportunities for meaningful communication.

