



## Career & Technical Education

### Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

#### **CTE Teachers Begin the Year Building a Community Within Their Classrooms**

This year's staggered start has presented challenges and opportunities. With nearly a week between when the first and last districts began sending students to the Career Center, MOCC staff members have demonstrated innovation and ingenuity in their approaches to this challenge. For the most part, this has been a balance between getting current students started in the curriculum without positioning later-starting students behind the power curve.

Our staff members have struck this balance beautifully by whetting students' appetites for what is to come while building a community in their classroom through team-building activities.



**Public Safety, Corrections, and Allied Health students conquering the “Helium Stick” Activity**

In addition to team-building activities, teachers have leveraged student-leaders to facilitate introduction and orientation activities. As the adage goes, “If you want to learn something, teach it.” Students have been leading their late-arriving peers on building tours, classroom procedures, and career readiness activities.

The CTE staff members' positivity and commitment to student success have turned a challenge into an opportunity that will undoubtedly yield benefits throughout the year with increased buy-in and ownership of their CTE program by students.

#### **MOCC and Meceola Tech Program Updates**

As of August 27<sup>th</sup>, MOCC enrollment was at 598, less than last year's 635 students and the 613 students two years ago at this time. Although slightly down building-wide most programs are near or at capacity and such fluctuations are normal. The program with the largest enrollment (both sessions combined) is Allied Health with 67 students followed by Welding with 52.

The Transition to Success program has 22 students enrolled from five of our six local districts. In its third year, this program has proven to be effective at increasing at-risk sophomore students' likelihood of being successful their junior and senior years at MOCC. The extra year of career exploration and focus on their career readiness skills has been the difference in them finding the purpose, determination, and direction necessary to succeed and in some cases excel!

With Meceola Tech classes scheduled to begin September 16<sup>th</sup>, enrollments are expected to continue to increase right up to the start date. We embarked on a blitzkrieg-style marketing campaign after aligning all of our start dates and are in the process of assisting students who've expressed interest with completing the application process. As long as the minimum enrollment thresholds are met, the following classes will run: Automotive Electrical, Culinary Basics, Certified Nurse Aide, Emergency Medical Technician, Information Technology, Introduction to Manufacturing, and Welding.

## Special Projects

### Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

We are off and running! The night of our Board meeting will be the first day for our GSRP students. We are directly operating ten classrooms of full-day programs across the ISD; NEMCSA will operate eight full-day classrooms where GSRP and Head Start funds are blended; FSU will operate one classroom that will be blended with their tuition-based program. We will be serving 267 students with GSRP funds for the 2019-20 year. We have until mid-February to ensure all slots will be filled. We are at 90% of slots filled at this time. Now to get that State Aid budget passed!

We are finishing up reporting on last year's program in terms of looking at the "quintile" the family's income falls into. Here is what our distribution looks like:

Quintile	Head Start Eligible Can attend GSRP w/waiver		Sweet Spot for GSRP			Can enroll in GSRP with risk factors present, must pay the sliding scale tuition fee	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FPL	0-50	51-100	101-150	151-200	201-250	251-300	301-Up
# Served	79	87	43	34	-	9	13
%	29.8	32.8	16.23	12.8	-	3.4	4.9

In the 2018-19 school year, 24% of children shown in Quintile 1 & 2 were served in GSRP programs with a waiver. For the 2018-19 school year, we collected \$10,080 in tuition. These funds have to be spent in the year they were received on program quality improvement. We will be working with staff to expend these funds based on data from their Program Quality Assessment data.

We have several staff professional learning opportunities coming up in the next couple of months: Childcare Licensing Updates, Mindfulness, Poverty Simulation, Vision & Academic Performance, Early Literacy Essentials, and more! We have a busy year laid out before us for sure!

In the Homeless Education arena, October 11<sup>th</sup>, we are moving forward with our annual Hands Across Michigan Homeless Liaison conference. We are going to begin our day with a Poverty Simulation. If you are interested in taking part in one of these experiences, we would love to have you join us. This will be a large simulation with 80-100+ participating. We are offering our support in a couple of areas for a few months to help where other grant coordinators are off for medical leave. In Montcalm, Gratiot, Isabella, and Ionia counties we are currently fielding calls and providing technical assistance until January 2020. I am also part of a core team from across the state that is working with the

Office of Field Services to keep the Homeless Education ship afloat in the absence of the State Coordinator. This group has been working together to ensure the momentum we have in the state continues to move forward, and we are providing input into how we see the program moving forward in collaboration with that office regardless who sits in the seat at MDE.

### ***News from our Family Engagement Specialist--Tricia Smith Bennett***

The Family Engagement Team is very eager to take on the upcoming 2019-2020 school year! Even though our summer was short, it provided us with time to do some intensive and intentional planning to ensure we are giving families the best and most beneficial opportunities to spend time and learn together.



In the 2018-2019 school year, the Family Engagement Team had a goal of serving 1,000 families. I am proud to share that we were able to serve 2,005 families through the help and hard work of our MOISD and community partners. This year, the team has set an even higher goal of serving 2,500 families. We are eager to continue to build partnerships throughout both Mecosta and Osceola Counties to ensure we are not only offering families a time to engage and learn together but also offering them a chance to become aware of and connect with the resources they may need

### ***Family Engagement Events Schedule***

75.9% of families reported they want to see more book walks this school year, and 83% of families said they would read more together after having a book walk literacy experience. We are happy to be giving the people what they want by offering one book walk per GSRP site. We will also be offering the Let's Create Family Traditions holiday event again as well as our largest family engagement event of the year, the Summer Kick-Off Carnival. If you, your students, or your staff would like to learn more about these events or become a part of them, please click the link below to see the schedule, and feel free to reach out to see how you can help support the families in our community! We are always looking to diversify the volunteer staff at our events.

**Insert Link:** BW Dates 19-20

### ***Data Collection and Event Promotion***

Last school year, our team was able to start cultivating some great relationships with the district elementary schools, in particular, their Title I staff. One way we plan to continue to build that relationship is by offering a survey at the end of each event that will fit the data collection needs of the Family Engagement Team and the district schools. The data will then be entered into an electronic format where it will be analyzed and fed back to the district schools within three working days in two forms: raw data for the staff and data graphics that are family-friendly. We are hopeful that this data will be used to understand the needs and wants of families within their specific school districts. Along with supplying the district schools with the data that is collected, we also plan to promote all of the events for the schools including printable flyers, Facebook events, and social media pushes on our Mecosta-Osceola Community Engagement Page. We were also given the idea by one of our teachers to give event details stickers on the

day of the event to teachers to put on their kiddo's shirts the day of the event, so when they get home it is a reminder for parents to bring the family and join in on the fun!

### ***Family Engagement Totes***

This year, the team is going to offer ready to use family engagement opportunities that are available to be checked out upon request. These totes will include activities around literacy, math, problem-solving and following directions, social and emotional skills, fine motor skills, and gross motor skills. The goal of these totes is to model fun and engaging ways for parents to help their kiddos learn at home. The GSRP classrooms are going to use these totes for family engagement opportunities in the classroom and report back to the team on what went well and what they would like to see done differently to improve the experience for their families. This will help us to reach our ultimate goal with this project, which is to be able to share out these family engagement totes with all district school and community partners.

## **General Education**

### **Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:**

#### **The General Ed Team:**

The General Education Team is ready to start the new school year. We are excited to announce we have added Beth Bond to our team. We gained Beth, due to the new 31-N mental health supports grant from the state this summer. Beth, our new School Mental Health Consultant, will provide direct services to local general education students, based on data supplied by the local schools. She will also be a liaison to community resources, including Community

Mental Health. Part of our grant funds will help cover the costs associated with the direct services provided by CMH for the student. These funds are designed for general education students in need of counseling, social work services, and individual/group supports, with the long term goal of improved academics. The initiative, from the state, is new, and we are excited to see how we can benefit the students within our ISD.

In addition to gaining our new team member, the General Education Team is excited to embed our strategic plan 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. Our intent is 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.

#### **Early Literacy:**

Excitement and sadness are felt in this area of our team this fall, as we announce that Cathy Wirth took a job for Clare Public Schools. She will be missed, but I have complete confidence in Amy Posey, as she supports our local schools in the area of Literacy and as a systems coach for Mi-BLSI. However, before Cathy started her new adventure, our Literacy Coaches worked over the summer with schools and teachers on building capacity in the Essential Practices.



***Evert Teachers at an Essentials Learning in June***

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

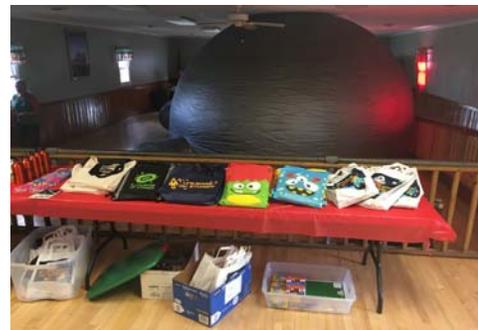
Another area of literacy that the MOISD is supporting is through the Mi-READ management platform. It is an instructional tool used to record Individual Reading Plans (IRIP's), along with providing strategies for teachers to use, as they differentiate for the learning in their classrooms. Data is pulled into the platform, through the Data Hub. 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.

**Math/Science:**

While Justin Fox, our math/science consultant/coach, was "on summer break," he was also supporting the learning of our local elementary students. He brought the Star Lab to the Chase Library for students to learn about space and the solar system.



***Local students received "tours" of the solar system and received resources to support their learning.***



**Justin will continue 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.**

**Behavioral Specialist:**

Michael Bausano has also been busy this summer, attending another week-long CHAMPS learning opportunity. He will be able to assist any of our local teachers, as a coach for the Safe and Civil Schools classroom management and behavior protocols. He and Beth Bond will also be supporting our categorical rooms in classroom management strategies, based on their learning.

In addition to CPI and TCI training over the summer, which will continue as various times throughout the school year, Michael will be providing bus driver training/learning sessions for our MOISD drivers. The goal is to build capacity, with a toolbox of

strategies, for our drivers, as they work daily with our students on their bus runs.

## Special Education

### Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

#### **New Staff:**

As usual, it was a very short and busy summer as we interviewed to find just the right people for our programs and WOW if we didn't outdo ourselves this time! We welcome the new staff members who joined our already incredible special education team: Jordyn Stromback SLP, Cortney Krugman SLP, Teresa Biller MOEC Paraprofessional, Amanda Jones, ECSE Paraprofessional, Kaylee Harless, Behavior Technician MOEC EI, Hannah Schunck Behavior Technician BRMS EI, Carol Ray VI Consultant, Rachel Frank HI Consultant, Diana Bitler ECSE Teacher, Katie Rice MOEC Resource Room Teacher, Crickett Bauer, MOEC Paraprofessional,

#### **Other Staff Changes:**

Christy Miller is our new Planner/Monitor & Special Education Supervisor. While we had some excellent candidates for the position, Christy's knowledge, experience, and passion made her the obvious and unanimous choice of the committee. Christy will also head up the Transition Council, supervise Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Speech & Language Pathologists, and she will also step into the role of General Supervision Grant Monitor which will involve all of the activities associated with working with MDE as we begin our monitoring journey as Cohort 0 this year. There is a lot of work ahead of us, but I am very confident with Christy in the lead.

Jenny Knopf is our new MOEC Supervisor, who was also the unanimous choice over other very highly qualified and passionate candidates. Jenny started her career at the Education Center as a substitute teacher, moved into a paraprofessional role, worked as a summer program teacher and is now their fearless leader! When you bring those very different perspectives into a position, it is a true gift, and I look forward to watching Jenny and her staff make MOEC the showplace of low incidence programs in Michigan. They will truly defy gravity every single day!

We still have one Supervisor position open and we hope to have it filled by the time you are reading this! That Supervisor will oversee Early On, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) at Eastwood, and all satellite programs (the resource rooms at Riverview, GT Norman, and BRMS EI).

#### **CHAMPS 2.0:**

We sent a second group to The Safe and Civil Schools Conference in Portland with the focus once again being on CHAMPS, but knowing that we needed to strengthen our own understanding and programs before we can coach and model in the local districts. Michael Bausano, Beth Bond and Lindsey LaGrow all attended the four-day intensive training BUILDING BETTER CLASSROOMS THROUGH MEANINGFUL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COACHING, Kim Bowen attended the four-day intensive training Tier 2&3 Interventions, and Stephanie Snow, our new middle school EI teacher attended the most intensive four-day training COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIOR CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT. I had the pleasure of attending Foundations and Academics Supports. I appreciate being able to attend as it's important to understand

the concepts in order to support the teams who are doing the work.

### **MOISD Special Education**

#### **Transportation:**

As you know, MOISD made the decision to transport all special education students to and from all ISD programs and we couldn't be more grateful for that decision! The first couple of days went off with very few hiccups but hundreds of smiles! Thank you to Karlene and her staff for making great things happen for our kids!

#### **Orange Frog Workshop:**

I had the pleasure of providing another Orange Frog Workshop for 27 ISD & local staff during PD week in August. The Orange Frog is a parable based upon positive psychology and the work of Harvard Psychologist Shawn Achor, author of *The Happiness Advantage*. The book, *The Orange Frog*, sets the stage for the Leading Positive Results workshop, which is about creating a happier, more productive, more satisfying life and workplace. It has been so positively received that we've already scheduled another for September 30!

Orange ya' glad ya sent me to the training, Mr. Locke?!



### **Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:**

#### **New Office Space at Pineview:**

The Fall of 2019 brings excitement to the staff and students at Pineview Homes as we remodeled our school office space for staff and administration. Students and staff alike entered school wide-eyed and impressed at the improvements made. A new layout, along with new carpet and paint have made the office space more impactful for staff and student use.

#### **Strategic Action Plan:**

The US 10 Corridor Staff continues its journey through the MOISD's CHAMPS initiative. Recently, staff worked through the STOIC checklist to ensure CHAMPS implementation in their practices was being executed with fidelity. The US 10 Corridor

teachers and staff continue to evolve in their thought and practice when it comes to meeting the needs of all students. CHAMPS and other trauma-responsive practices continue to drive positive behavioral supports and initiatives on the US 10 Corridor!

### **Special Education Supervisor Jenny Knopf Reports:**

I am thrilled to be starting my 1st year as the Special Education Supervisor at the Education Center. I'm excited to use my knowledge and experience to help all students and staff. This year is already off to a busy start! Staff are teaching and practicing classroom and school procedures. In addition, staff are leaning on their CHAMPS training and building positive relationships with each student, because that is where it all starts!

The Ed Center went through some changes this past summer! We moved a couple of classrooms, welcomed a new Emotionally Impaired program and created a new classroom! A huge shout out to the amazing Maintenance and Tech staff who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to get the rooms ready for the first day of school! This year is also the first year that the ISD will be transporting all students.

In addition to the new spaces and rooms, we are thrilled to welcome several new staff members to the Ed Center team.

**We are excited to welcome two new teachers and para-educators to our building.**

Rachel Lovejoy is the teacher of the Elementary Severely Emotionally impaired classroom. She is joined in her room by

paraeducators Breann Nelson and Kaylee Harless.

We are also thrilled to welcome Katie Rice as the new Elementary Resource Room teacher.

Teresa Biller is a new para in the High School MOCI classroom, and Crickett Bauer is a para in the Elementary MOCI classroom!

There are many changes, but we are excited about this 2019-2020 school year! We are also fortunate to have all our itinerant staff members back from last year, so even if students are in a new room/program, they are seeing familiar faces.



*A student is enjoying some time on the merry go round!*



*A student is not sure about this butterfly thing yet!*



***A student is pointing to the apple in The Very Hungry Caterpillar!***

monitoring process and how it might be improved. In my new position as Planner/Monitor, I look forward to facilitating this valuable learning process in partnership with local districts and MDE-OSE!

### **Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:**

Mecosta-Osceola ISD has been chosen as one of eight districts to take part in state monitoring as Cohort 0. As the sub-recipient of federal funds, the ISD is responsible for ensuring that all students receiving special education services within the ISD are afforded a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE), as afforded to them under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In order to ensure FAPE, safeguards, policies, and procedures need to be in place. The monitoring process helps to gauge to what extent the aforementioned procedures are in place at the ISD and local levels. As a part of Cohort 0, our ISD will be able to undergo the monitoring process without findings. In other words, our ISD will have the opportunity to work with MDE-OSE to ensure that our processes and procedures are in order. While Carol did an amazing job as Planner/Monitor last year preparing districts for monitoring through her work with the IPER and General Supervision Grant, this process will provide us with the opportunity to take an even closer look at our processes at the ISD and local levels. It will also allow us an opportunity to provide feedback to the State about the