



Career & Technical Education

Director Steve Locke Reports on CTE News:

Get Your Career In Gear! Tenth grade students from all six MOISD districts visited the MOCC in October. This event is designed to connect future MOCC students with the program best aligned to each student's aptitudes and interests. Mrs. Wendy Iltis did a great job coordinating this event and shares the following:

- 625 students attended.
- All LEA 10th graders were scheduled and participated.
- Students are (were) encouraged to update their EDP, specifically their Matchmaker to help identify their Career Cluster, which helps identify a possible career path and a MOCC program. Jill and Wendy went out and worked with all 10th graders from RC, MS, & EV to get this task completed, as well as signing up for program visits here at MOCC.
- Current MOCC students served as hosts and facilitated most of the experiences of the visiting 10th grade students.



Wexford-Missaukee ISD Visits the MOCC -

Our wonderful colleagues to the north, Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center, visited the MOCC on November 1. WMISD staff spent time in the classroom with our staff observing instructional strategies, assessment practices, classroom management approaches and staff-student interactions. After the AM session was completed, staff from each organization were able to share best practices with each other and get ideas. The Culinary Arts students and staff developed and served an awesome lunch.

This was a great experience for both the Wexford and Mecosta-Osceola staff. We look forward to more collaborations in the future.

Fall Advisory Meetings – Initially, as a requirement of the Perkins Grant and now as an essential component of our practice, Advisory Committees meet twice each year. Each program is provided direction and insight into the current trends and future direction of business and industry. The Advisory Committees ensure that all MOCC programs are aligned to standards and practices found in each program's respective industries. In addition, Advisory Committees make recommendations on technical skill assessments, technology and equipment purchases, as well as serve as conduits for work-based learning opportunities for MOCC students.

Diesel Technology - Electrical Training (by Toni King)

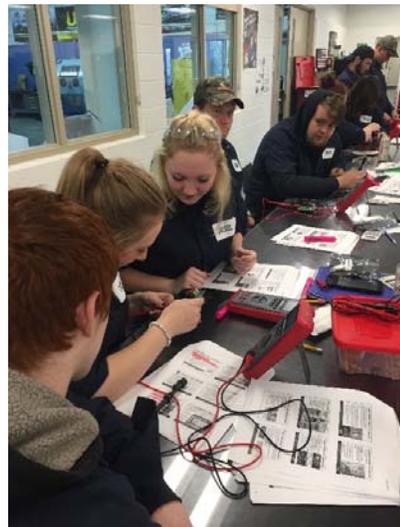
October was full of electrical fundamentals and diagnostic test equipment training. We were fortunate to have Ferris State University offer the use of their Snap-On Digital Multimeter (DMM) Certification trainer. The students performed several circuit tests while learning the ins and outs of the function and use of the DMM. Most of the

students are now certified to use a Snap-On DMM!



Students working on DMM Training

Along with the training, students have been learning the fundamentals of electricity and Ohm's Law. We have been putting our math skills to the test and learning how to do calculations for voltage, amperage, and resistance. Also, students are learning about the different types of circuits (series, parallel, series-parallel) and how current flows through them. Students are building these circuits using a mock electric fence and can troubleshoot for any issues. We will be moving onto batteries in the month of November, just in time for cold weather!



General Education

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

Poverty Simulation - We are working with Leadership Mecosta on November 9th to provide their class with a Poverty Simulation. We will be doing this out at Trinity Fellowship in Big Rapids, beginning at 1:00 PM, if you are interested in participating or helping out, it is an impactful experience--every time! Give me a call and we will get you set up in the simulation. We will also be partnering with Osceola Leadership Summit to provide their group with the simulation as well in January (11th).

Grants - Most of our grants have been or will be submitted by the end of this month so we enter a "quiet" period in terms of writing grants and reports to MDE. . . "holiday hiatus"! Thanks to Mark Higgins for his assistance in helping us get these reports submitted on time and accurately in terms of the budgeting aspects.

Fire Safety - Last month our students received very important instruction on how to stop, drop, and roll--here are some pics to enjoy!



Homeless Conference - We had about 60 people attend our Hands Across Michigan Regional Homeless Liaison Conference in October. Feed the Children sent us with a semi full of backpacks, binders, books, gummy bears, and protein bars. I also purchased socks, unders, sweat pants/shirts, diapers, booster seats, hygiene and laundry supplies. I am happy to announce that most of it went by the end of the conference! Woo hoo! 16 pallets of supplies--\$89,813.58 value were distributed throughout Michigan. The training sessions were well received and folks are looking forward to coming back next year. We are exploring the possibility of bringing in a national speaker by pooling funds across our northern MV grant programs and coordinating with other areas across the state so we only pay for one flight to Michigan.

On November 8 we will be hosting a Landlord Luncheon at the MOCC. We continue to partner with other housing and supportive housing agencies to help stabilize our homeless families. Increasing collaboration with our community agencies in all our homeless grant counties is a focus area in the next grant cycle. Other areas we will focus on, as they are changes that impact our homeless program from Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), include the following: preschool, credit recovery/accrual, liaison capacity, and developing an unaccompanied homeless youth advisory board. More to come in the future reports regarding these topics.

Great Start - Our new Great Start Collaborative Director, Jessica Wimmer, is moving forward with great intention and a fresh perspective to ensure we move forward in our efforts to ensure:

- Children are born healthy.
- Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
- Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.
- Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

She has been forming work groups to move each of these areas forward in our region by making strategic invites to community stakeholders to participate and take the lead in these four core areas. The first meeting is November 2. It is exciting to feel and see new energy on this project and building on the foundation already in place.

Homeless Education - I attended the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference in

Chicago at the end of October. Really liking that it was so close to home this year! On Saturday, I attended the State Homeless Education Coordinator session on behalf of our State Coordinator who was unable to attend due to other commitments. On Monday, we presented the homeless credentialing tool to full room of folks. This tool is currently being used by 12 states, and we are working to secure funding that will allow this tool to be fully funded by a third party for every liaison across the nation. Should this funding come through, it would be huge for homeless education liaisons and districts across the nation. Other folks are paying close attention to what is happening with this tool--American Bar Association, foster care, public health, and pupil accounting are all considering this tool as a solution for professional development options for their staff. It has been pretty exciting to be involved in this project. We are working on the next phase of integration of the homeless data collection tool as part of the credentialing system.

Thanks for your continued support! Happy Thanksgiving!

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

The Gen Ed Team:



Shark Week--Passing out treats at the Ed Center

Early Literacy - Both literacy coaches participated in a week-long Intensive Coaching Clinic at Lincoln Park Elementary School in Mona Shores. Amy and Cathy participated in coaching, modeling of lessons, small group work and observations, and observation of other coaches. Each coach applied to be a participant in the week's learning. Our coaches will be able to use their learning in our onsite learnings for teachers and principals and in the schools where they are working with teachers and grade levels.



Amy Posey-Observing a small group



Cathy Wirth working with students at the Clinic

In addition to the work our coaches do in the local schools, they are required to attend regular coaching seminars-online monthly and in person quarterly. The in person seminars can with all the state literacy

coaches or with coaches from our region. In November, they attended a full state learning in Lansing. The “seminars” are facilitated by researchers, other coaches, the state Early Literacy Task Force, and teachers from universities, like Nell Duke, from U of M, and Tanya Wright, from MSU, both nationally renowned writers and researchers.



Literacy Coaches Statewide Learning Seminar

Math & Science: Math Recovery Update - Teachers have been excited to implement Math Recovery since the professional learning held this past August. The instructors have been identifying students that need math assistance and providing targeted activities to help fill the students' gaps. Larry Wyn has been providing follow-up support through face-to-face meetings and online meetings. The follow-up sessions are ensuring that the instructors are implementing with fidelity and getting the most out of the professional learning. Teachers are looking forward to future opportunities to improve their understanding on early elementary mathematics.

Other Math-Science Activities - Our two consultants have been busy learning together and working as a team. Justin Fox and Larry Wyn have been to BRMS to teach math lessons and will be attending Cognitive Coaching together in the next few months. Justin is continuing to teach math lessons at the MOCC, as well as introducing Classroom Learning Labs at Evert and participating in

ongoing labs at RCMS. He will also be participating in the STEM and Flower Standards Based Learning project at BRHS in the future.

MiSTEM Network Collaborations - The MOISD is currently supporting the region development of 16 MiStem Regions around the state. We will be included in the region with Westshore ISD and Wexford-Missaukee ISD. Our final grant proposal is being submitted by Westshore ISD, as they will be the fiscal agent in our proposal. The changes to the Math-Science Centers around the state are taking place due to legislative changes in funding. We will continue to provide the same services to our locals, but this may allow us to branch out and participate with our counterparts in the other two ISD's.

Ongoing Activities - TRIG/Michigan Collaboration Hub -The MOISD and the LEAs are currently working together to have all of our schools connected to the Statewide Data Hubs. The Hubs connect a multitude of learning platforms and student data systems in one location. It is a free platform that was created with funds from TRIG. It will allow teachers, principals, and parents to log into one system and have access to a variety of systems, such as Skyward, Meal Magic, EdPlan, and Career Cruising. We are in the very beginning phase of connections, but the long-term potential can offer direct learning connections to the classroom.

Reading Now Network - Three of our local school districts will be participating in a grant project facilitated by the RNN and Western Michigan University. Big Rapid Public Schools, Chippewa Hills, and Crossroads Charter accepted the opportunity to receive funding to bring in instructional support for

literacy. All of our schools will be in the second cohort of funding. This is an exciting opportunity for our schools. As the grant gets under way, the General Education team will keep you posted.

Professional Learning - Upcoming opportunities:

5-D Educator Evaluation:

September 22 (New Teachers Overview)
November 30 (School Improvement/5-D+)
February 7 (Observable Best Practice)
April 30 (Student Engagement)

Early Release Days:

Early Literacy: Sept 15, Nov 17, Jan 19, March 16
Math/Science: Oct 20, Dec 15, Feb 16, May 18

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

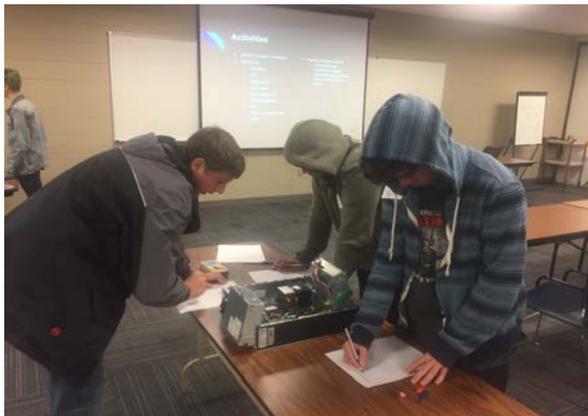
DataHub Project and Local Schools - The MOISD is taking a key role in the state helping the Data Hubs with Skyward schools and the integration of Skyward. Joe Bouman of Big Rapids Public Schools has been a long-term user of Skyward and has teamed with the MOISD and the Data Hubs to share his expertise in this area. We met with the Data Hubs team to offer them training on how we have integrated Skyward into the Data Hubs project. The Data Hubs project has asked us if we would be willing to share the path to success of a Skyward integration with others in the state.

Technology Staff PD - Mike Schonert and Rose Kipfmiller went to a two-day professional development on technology in education. They attended sessions on Regional Data Center Collaborations, PowerShell - a tool for automating, Change Control in Project Management, and Security on a shoestring by Merit.

Get your Career in Gear at the MOISD - Technology team members Rose Kipfmiller and Chad Marshal helped the Career Center to get students interested in a vocation of technology with some hands-on activities. I will be chairing the committee to investigate an Informational Technology program.



Students laying out wireless coverage and what needs to be consider when creating a wireless network in a building. They laid out a system on a building architectural drawing.



Students look inside a computer. The activity here was to identify the component of the computer.

Michigan Educational Technology Leaders (METL) - At the October METL reorganization meeting, I was nominated by the election committee to become one of the five-member leadership team for this state leadership organization. This organization is made up of the state of Michigan ISD technology leaders. The METL group is helping to fill in the gap left with the

decommissioning of the Michigan Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant program (TRIG).

Community Broadband Network meeting

Jake Martin and I were asked by the Curriculum and Technology Leaders Collaborative Summit - CTLCS Committee to help with a panel session at Lansing Community College on October 31. This summit was sponsored by MDE, MSBO, METL, MAISA and, GELN. I was the panel session facilitator, and Jake was one of three expert panelists on the topic. Here are the details of the session. The session will be a panel discussion on equitable access for students with wireless infrastructures as white space, LTE or other initiatives that are supporting the movement to close the homework gap in schools. These projects are being done by the creation of dynamic partnerships including Higher Ed, Community Health, K12 schools, and other community organizations. This session was designed to be Awareness of Equity in education about the growing homework gap and the lack of wireless access outside of school. At the next meeting of the Midwest Michigan Broadband group, they will look at actions we can take to create an Internet purchasing consortium that would help all local organizations drive cost down and create better access to the community. This will also look at the local fiber infrastructure and bandwidth. Link to the session materials are available at <https://sites.google.com/view/ctlcs/>.

MOP Co-Op - Technology Team Support Service Metrics for the Month of September - The Technology Department helped provide the following support:

- There were **384** support request tickets created

- The average response time for first contact for a help request was **4 hours, 27 minutes.**
- Technology support set up for **28+** professional development meetings

Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

October MAASE - Celeste Belcher-Girard from Morley Stanwood, Sarah Bailey from Ewart and Kari Rayburn from Big Rapids joined Carol, Christy, Beth, Pat and I at the October MAASE Professional Learning, What's So Special About Special Education presented by Laurie VanderPloeg and Sharon LaPointe. Their attendance truly deepened their knowledge about specially designed instruction and the continuum of programs and services that students are entitled to in their districts and within the ISD, and continues to allow for very open and honest conversations about how we work toward improving outcomes for students.

No Such Thing as a Bad Kid - Author and keynote speaker Charlie Appelstein presented an all-day workshop for 80 plus participants from within and outside our ISD on October 12. Charlie's extensive research, experience, and knowledge coupled with his humor set the stage for an incredible day of learning with participants leaving the session with practical and proven methods for reducing problematic behavior in the classrooms and schools. Research continues to show that the number one factor in reducing student destructive behavior at school is one caring adult. Certainly seems simple enough...!



Restorative Justice Circles Training- Nancy Schertzing returned on October 25 to provide the second component of restorative justice, Circles Training, to nine participants from US 10, MOISD, Crossroads and Reed City Middle School. The training allowed for the group to delve further into how to facilitate a restorative justice circle by role playing several different scenarios. We all came away with a better understanding of when schools might use a restorative justice circle in place of traditional discipline and the intricacies of proper facilitation.

Breakfast with Judge Thompson - Pat, Christy and I attended the Breakfast with Judge Thompson on Friday, October 27, together with many other staff from Morley Stanwood, Big Rapids and Crossroads. It

was a great opportunity for community agencies and the family courts to introduce themselves and talk a bit about how they can/would like to collaborate with the schools. We all appreciate Judge Thompson's enthusiasm for working together to help our students and families. We look forward to many years of positive collaborating.

Parent Advisory Committee - The PAC held their first meeting of the 2017-18 school year on October 26. It was most unfortunate that only one of the committee members was able to attend; therefore, we were unable to follow the meeting specifics as outlined in their bylaws. Stacy Gilland, representative from Reed City, and Marie Wilkerson, MOISD Board Liaison, did progress through the agenda which included Director and Technical Assistant reports, updates on MOISD enrollment, Michigan Alliance for Families upcoming events, MOISD Plan modification requests, and other area happenings.

MOISD-Eaton RESA Collaboration - Holly Makimaa, Prevention Specialist from Eaton RESA, contacted me in the summer regarding their Prevention Division and wondered about the possibility of MOISD hosting their **Trauma Informed Care for the Prevention and Treatment of Opioid Use & Abuse** Workshop. Their grant allowed for them to do a wider outreach, and they felt our area would be a great central location. They will be doing their half-day workshop on November 9 in Miller at MOCC.

Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:

Itinerant Highlight: School Social Work Department - Greetings from your MOISD

School Social Workers: Marie Chapman, Shelly Davis, Sherry Franklin, Kara Lake, Chris Sherman, and Cindy Warner.

School social work delivery across the MOISD is dynamic, diverse, and differentiated in order to best meet the needs of students, parents, local buildings, local districts, and the MOISD. Effective SSW services in an elementary school require different skills than in a high school. For example: Our SSW team serves young people within the Special Education system from pre-school through adulthood, from parochial schools to adjudicated youth. As professional school social workers, we do not "specialize" in any one of these areas of practice, but instead we are all trained to work with all populations to assist students with emotional, psychological, and behavioral challenges, to access the general curriculum.

Here is just a sampling of some approaches we use to meet our students' needs:

- Focus on growing student self-regulation by utilizing Zones of Regulation materials.
- Anger management techniques (adolescents in Evart have asked for that support)
- Social skills education for our students with combined behavioral, social, and communication challenges
- Bullying prevention
- Strength-based therapy, Trauma informed therapy, Cognitive/Behavioral therapy, Crisis intervention, Solution-focused therapy, Reality Therapy/Choice Theory (Did you know that all of your SSW team members are qualified to

work in private practice and hang out their own shingle?)

A "typical" SSW evaluation requires about five to six hours, plus IEP time. The data isn't available as to precisely how many initial evaluations or re-evaluations are conducted by SSW each year, but across the district there are 88 EI students and 113 ASD students. A school social worker is a necessary and relevant member of the evaluation team for each of those students.

In 2017-2018 our six-member SSW team serves approximately 350 students. We estimate that across the district the students on our caseloads receive a total of 122 hours of direct SSW service/therapy per week.

We all attend a multitude of IEP, MET team, REED meetings, staffings, behavior plan meetings, parent meetings, etc. during any school year. We don't have a simple method for gathering the data to calculate how many hours we spend in meetings per year, but an educated guess, based on our cumulative caseload of 350 kids, might be 28 hours per week across the MOISD in meetings related to our students – at a minimum.

The Professional Social Work Code of Ethics: All social workers must adhere to our code of ethics. This code guides all of our professional decision making. The preamble to the code reads, in part – “The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty ... Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of

clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice ... Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

1. Service
2. Social Justice
3. Dignity/worth of the person
4. Importance of human relationships
5. Integrity
6. Competence.

As a requirement for maintaining our SSW licenses, each of us must earn 45 hours of continuing education specifically directed at enhancing our code of ethics. This year, on November 2 and 3, the team attended the Michigan Association of School Social Worker annual conference in Lansing together. The opportunity to attend as colleagues and co-workers was invaluable to our on-going professional growth and learning, ultimately enhancing further the work we do with our students.

Don't hesitate to ask any one of us about our careers. We love what we do.

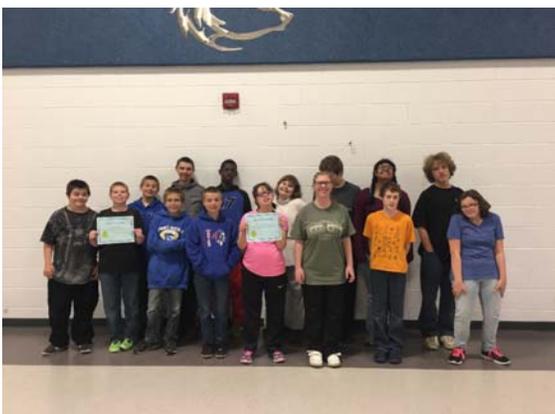
Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:

Wow! October was a really busy month and went by so fast! It has been fun to see all the wonderful fall themes: pumpkin activities – gooey seeds, Jack-O-Lantern pictures, and even Hedgehogs made out of fall leaves.



We had a visit from Big Rapids Firefighter Russ who shared fire safety tips, demonstrated the different parts of a firefighter uniform and then invited students to join him to tour a real fire truck. Students were delighted with the equipment and siren.

We held an assembly to showcase our students who are being successful in self-advocacy. Of course we practiced our “Roll ‘in Like a Hedgehog” song and sent home order forms for our hedgehog t-shirts.



Miss Hammermeister's Middle School Class



Jovantae Swartz – Mrs. Nielsen's HS Class



Jordan Frederick – Mrs. Sweppenheiser's Class



Ryan Crouch – Mrs. Schanderer's Class

Then the big finale for October was Halloween! We had students in all kinds of fun costumes. Of course lots of staff members dressed up as well. We are also fortunate to have staff from all across the MOISD campus come in and give treats out to our students....they love it (students and adults)! In the afternoon, the Elks from Big Rapids and staff once again led students in carnival-type games and activities.



Cookie Decorating



Curious George and the Man in the yellow hat (aka Owen Tayler)



Face-Painting



Student in Mrs. Sweppenheiser's class were all hunters while staff were the animal trophies!

Special Education Supervisor Carol Phelps Reports:

Transition Council - The Transition Council met on October 4. This month's featured speaker was Steve Locke, Director of Career and Technical Education, who spoke about serving students with IEPs in the CTE setting. During this presentation, Mr. Locke spoke about programming at the Career Center and the structures in place to support students with IEPs along with how the focus of the Career Center is to get all students career and/or college ready. Mr. Locke provided several well-received resources including the MOCC MAP (My Action Plan) that was shared with all local transition coordinators via the Google Transition Council folder and the Fall MAP Survey in Google Forms. Ms. Kimberly Tufnell also shared with the group an

update about the Transition to Success. Students from all districts but one are participating, and it is going very well.

After the presentation, the group talked about Pre-ETS training from Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Michigan Rehabilitation Services, in coordination with schools and other community partners, will offer Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with disabilities ages 14-26 in secondary or post-secondary education. Services are designed to be an early start at job exploration and to assist students with disabilities in making transition from education/training to competitive, integrated employment. Services include: 1. Job Exploration Counseling 2. Work-based Learning Experiences 3. Counseling on Post-Secondary Educational Programs 4. Workplace Readiness Training 5. Self-Advocacy Training, to include Peer Mentoring. Becky Curtis from MRS is setting up Pre-ETS training in all area schools.

The three main goals of the transition grant this year are IEP development, transition assessment and data analysis. IEP development focused upon B13 workbook activities and completing Student Level Corrective Action Plans and Corrective Action Plans. Transition Assessment work involved reviewing the MAASE Community of Practice Secondary Transition Assessment Table and also focused upon a case from the Thrun Law notes. The type of work for data analysis was discussed, but no work took place yet on this area.

Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education - I attended MAASE and attended professional learning about Whatever Happened to Specially Designed Instruction? by Laurie VanderPloeg and Sharon LaPointe. I also attended the

Community of Practice for Transition, the ISD Collaborative Community of Practice, the Finance & Legislative Committee and the PCG Monitors meeting along with the general membership meeting. These are two action-packed days filled with many updates and lots of information to come back and share!

No Such Thing As a Bad Kid! - Charlie Applestein's professional learning that was hosted here at the MOISD on 10/12/17 was one of the best professional development days I have ever attended. He gets kids and he gets how to talk to adults about getting kids.

Home Visiting



Mrs. Clay at a transition conference with one of her students, the student's mom and the student's brother

Medicaid Training from PCG



On the 10/21/17 early release, the social workers, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists received an update from PCG on Medicaid logging.