

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD DEPARTMENT UPDATES

February, 2018

*"Helping Schools
Help Students"*



Career & Technical Education

Director Mike Miller Reports on CTE News:

Classroom Learning Labs – Teachers helping Teachers - On Thursday, January 18, MOISD Math Consultant Justin Fox facilitated the first Classroom Learning Lab at the MOCC. Public Safety Instructor Joy Paquette was the host teacher. A Classroom Learning Lab is an informal observation of another teacher by his/her peer teachers. It is an effective venue for teachers to collaborate on their craft.

The group meets in advance of the lesson. During this meeting, the host instructor shares his/her focus for the lesson, and the guest teachers decide on their own focus as well. By watching a colleague teach his/her class, other instructors can witness the best practices that another models. While the observation is a large part of the process, the most enriching portion is the dialogue that ensues during the debriefing session.

During these discussions, teachers share 'notice and wonderings' about the lesson with the host teacher. These are nonjudgmental statements aimed at clarifying what they observed or at gaining additional information. The benefits are manifold.

- rich conversation regarding best practices

- observing teachers garner strategies which they can implement in their own classrooms
- host teachers receive feedback on their practice in a low-risk environment
- all teachers intentionally focus on their personalized goals aligned to 5D+™
- collegiality is fostered as trust is built through collaboration

We are looking forward to many future Classroom Learning Labs at the MOCC. As Mr. Fox continues in this venture, he's hopeful that one day Classroom Learning Labs will be prevalent across the MOISD, and that teachers will be able to host and observe teachers from other buildings and even other districts.

Corrections and Firefighting Students Train with the Pros



Firefighting students trained every day last week at the Big Rapids Department of Public

Safety. Students trained on the 105' ladder, locking into ladders with their legs in order to have use of both hands, a rescue procedure known as the Denver Drill, and other maneuverability procedures.



Corrections Academy students conducted contraband search training at the Mecosta County Jail. In addition to the realistic environment, students gleaned invaluable pointers from current corrections officers.

Our partnerships with the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department and the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety enable our students to take the knowledge and skills they've learned in the classroom and apply them in a professional setting. Additionally, the feedback and support they receive from our local public servants helps enhance both their technical and career readiness skills.

Meceola Tech - It is an exciting time for Meceola Tech! Two courses are in session: Fire 1 & 2 and Welding Fundamentals of MIG/TIG.

Meceola Tech, in conjunction with Mecosta County Firefighter Training Council and Big Rapids Department of Public Safety, and Michigan Firefighter Training Council, offers practical and technical instruction designed to comprehensively equip participants with the

necessary skills and required credentials to qualify for employment as a firefighter. The Fire 1 & 2 course has a total of 15 cadets who will complete their 295 hours of training on April 28, 2018.

Welding is a comprehensive overview of the essential skills and knowledge required for entry into and success in the welding industry. Participants will receive specialized instruction and learning experiences via the American Welding Society (AWS) online learning modules, classroom instruction, and lab experiences. Students will spend significant time in the welding booth and on specialized equipment to acquire and develop the essential welding skills and deepen their comprehension of the primary principles of welding. The welding program has a total of 13 students, who will complete their 80 hours of training on March 21, 2018.

Written by Linda Ward, Supervisor of CTE Extension Services

Career Connect - Career Connect @ Meceola Tech is a collaboration between Evart Adult Education, Fremont Adult Education, Mason Lake Adult Education, MI Works! West Central, and Meceola Tech. The program offers adults completing their GED or High School Completion an opportunity to attend Meceola Tech and gain technical training, employability skills, and the opportunity to earn an industry credential. Mason Lake Adult Ed has three students that are participating in the current welding course. These three students will work closely with the CTE Navigator, Shelby VanScoyoc. Shelby's responsibilities are to support student success, completion of all educational requirements, remove barriers, and obtain employment related to their respective career programming.

Written by Linda Ward, Supervisor of CTE Extension Services

Apprenticeship Roundtable - Meceola Tech hosted an apprenticeship roundtable on January 18 collaborating with seven manufacturing local businesses (Simonds Int., Armato Electric, KMK Manufacturing, PJF Inc., Leprino Foods, Big Rapids Products, and Acme Propellers), MiWorks! West Central, and the MOCC . The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the training needs of business and industry and how Meceola Tech and the MOCC can meet those needs. Jonathan Eppley, from MiWorks! West Central, discussed the benefits of apprenticeship programs and potential for Skilled Trades Training Fund grant support. Discussion from the meeting included possible apprenticeship programs, specialized training for business and industry, and work-based learning opportunities for MOCC students. This is the first of many apprenticeship roundtables! This group will continue to meet, plan, and execute skilled training programs!

Written by Linda Ward, Supervisor of CTE Extension Services

General Education

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

On January 11, 2018 MOISD hosted a Mental Injury training for DHHS, CMH and any school personnel that wanted to attend. It turned out to be a snow day, but we still had 69 people attend. *Mental Injury is a pattern of physical or verbal acts or omissions on the part of the parent and/or person responsible for the child that results in psychological or emotional injury/impairment to a child or places a child at significant risk of being psychologically or emotionally injured/impaired (depression,*

anxiety, lack of attachment, fear or abandonment or safety, fear that life or safety is threatened).

Why is this a problem? In Mecosta and Osceola counties, 28 cases of alleged mental injury were reported to the Central Registry. There was **not one** case where it was determined there was a preponderance of evidence to open a child protective services case (CPS). Through collaborative conversations--particularly between CMH and DHHS workers, it was felt that this was not accurate and we need to do a better job of identifying and reporting mental injury in a manner that would result in cases being assigned/opened and work with families and children could occur.

These 28 kids are most likely intersecting our systems as well. In fact, school personnel are likely to have made some of these reports for emotional abuse. Through better communication, a more thorough understanding of each system's policies and procedures related to reporting, and through building stronger collaborative working relationships, we can improve our processes and get better outcomes for kids. This type of event fits in nicely with our community focus on trauma informed care and practices.

We will continue to partner with CMH and DHHS to offer Advanced Trauma Trainings on the third Thursday of each month at the MOISD in collaboration with the Child Trauma Assessment Center out of Kalamazoo. Each training will be from 2-3:30 PM.

We are hosting two focus group events at Eastwood with MDE on February 1. The mid-day session is a review of the MiLit Plan, and the evening session is helping to develop a parent engagement framework for the state. Each event was well attended with broad representation from various community

sectors and parents. It is nice to be able to give local voice to state-developed plans and materials.

Here are some pictures of students engaged in the learning process. Happy Valentine's Day! Thanks for your continued support!



Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

The Gen Ed Team - Our team continues to offer monthly meetings to meet with various groups of teachers, directors, and principals. The Instructional Support Team meets to dialogue about interventions for Tier I/II/III, MTSS, and ways to support the classroom teachers. Our Literacy Coaches facilitate this meeting.



Instructional Support Meeting

The Curriculum Directors also meet monthly. We share out any updates, changes, and current issues faced in the locals. Last month David Johnson, our social studies consultant from the Northern Michigan Learning Consortia, spent time with us reviewing all the options available to our locals through the Mi-Open Book Resources. The Mi-Open Book Project originated through the State TRIG project and has saved schools districts in Michigan over \$44 million in textbook costs. Our goal was to share the resources available, along with learning opportunities Dave can provide our locals schools at no charge!



Local Curriculum Directors and David Johnson

Early Literacy



Instructional Rounds: Godfrey Lee Elem

Amy Posey, Cathy Wirth, and I are participating in Instructional Rounds for the Reading Now-Western Michigan University grant work for improving literacy in MAISA Regions 3 and 7. The grant's purpose is to help schools set literacy goals, support those goals through coaching teachers and principals, and provide \$20,000 for literacy supports. We currently have three districts that accepted the supports and will be participating in the second cohort of schools. By participating in the first cohort instructional rounds, we will be more prepared to assist our districts.

Math and Science



GT Norman Students: Coding and Technology

Our Math/Science consultants are incorporating STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) into the learning and support we offer our local teachers. Larry Wyn is now a Code.Org facilitator, and we are promoting coding and computer science in the classrooms. All six of our districts currently have Robotics teams, which is another component of STEM. Our consultants recently met with local robotics coaches and business leaders in the area to open the conversation of how our businesses can support our local teams through learning and financial supports. We continue to offer monthly webinars to support all elementary teachers in math instruction that is aligned to Math Recovery.

Behavioral Specialist - Michael Bausano has been offering a wide variety of learning onsite at the ISD and in our local schools. The local principals and teachers have been providing positive feedback about the trainings and resources offered by Michael.

Aims for 2017-2018 School Year

- (1) To build behavioral support capacity at the building level.
- (2) To deliver a wide range of behavior-related professional learning

opportunities as part of the established MOISD professional development calendar, as well as building district trainings tailored upon request.



Riverview Elementary Team with Michael

Projected Professional Learning Opportunities for Winter-Spring 2018

- Data Informed Decision Making
- Tier 1 Classroom Supports/ Classroom Management
- Equipping Building Level Behavior Teams (Communication and Data focus)
- Mindfulness Applications (For students and staff)
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Families

Additional Learning in General Education

All trainings are provided free of charge to the local schools.

5-D Educator Evaluation:

- February 7 (Observable Best Practice)
- April 30 (Student Engagement)

Early Release Days:

- Early Literacy: Mar 16

- These trainings have been taking place at Morley-Stanwood Elementary, as the entire staff is participating. All ISD schools are welcome.
- Math/Science: Feb 16, May 18

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

Community Broadband Network meeting

We will be meeting with the Broadband group out of Newaygo County. This group is working with Oceana, Mason, Newaygo, and Lake. This group is working on a parallel path as Midwest Michigan Broadband Group (MMBG). Over the next few months, both the state and the federal government will be releasing broadband infrastructure plans. At the Chamber-sponsored meeting with the Legislator event, we had a chance to meet with Representative Hoitenga to talk. Also we met with Senator Gary Peters, local representative. We talked about Internet being a basic need for all citizens like running water into the home. There is a movement to look at how we get Internet into rural areas of Michigan.

Collaborative purchasing - The local schools and the Mecosta-Osceola ISD have an RFP out for a new firewall to help take advantage of some of the new State Educational Network services. We also are looking at doing a collaborative purchase of Internet access to help with the needed growth the ISDs and the locals are seeing in Internet usage. The Internet has been growing at a rate of about 30% per year in education. The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) suggests that by the year 2020-2021, districts should have 3.0 Gbps per 1000 students. So the ISD and the local schools will need to have just under 30 Gbps. This

also takes into account the FCC's recommendations.

Other areas we are currently looking at are

- Firewalls
- WAN Core switch
- Software
- Call Managers for Alerting schools

Transportation Video Systems - We are wrapping up the installation of the MOISD van video system. This was the project that we were able to put Crouch Communication in touch with this midwest installer. This allowed us to keep some of the work local.

Network Wiring Project at the Ed Center - We wrapped up the project at the Ed Center over the holiday break to install 21 new network data computer connections to the south end of the Ed Center. We were able to do this under the Erate program. This brings us up to best management practice of the current networking standards. This will allow us to meet future needs of the school.

Technology Department started a Satisfaction Survey - Starting at the first of the year, the Technology Department has established a customer satisfaction survey. After a help ticket has been completed, the user is automatically sent a satisfaction survey. The department workers have been receiving high satisfaction ratings. At the Technology board showcase, we will be sharing the results of this survey.

Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

Our collaboration with Michigan Alliance for Families is starting to gain great momentum

as we saw the largest turn out yet at Evart High School library on January 23 with our three-month presentation **Building Positive Relationships: Your Child's Success in School** with the MOISD Behavior Specialist, Michael Bausano. Principal Jessica Kolenda did an outstanding job of hosting the 20 attendees, and her passion for students showed as she spread the word in every way possible to help make the evening a great success. Attendees learned about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and how those experiences can impact children's abilities to learn at the same rate and pace as other students who had not been exposed to as many childhood experiences. Parents and agency members all took the ACE questionnaire and spent time learning the Competing Pathways Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) process that MOISD and the local districts use to help guide support and behavior plans to help students be more successful in school. The session will repeat on February 14 at the Big Rapids Public Library and again on March 13 at Mecosta Elementary School. We also have two other events in February: **Transition to High School and Beyond** at Reed City High School library on February 20, with a repeat session on February 21 in the Parsons Room on the campus of MOISD. Evening session includes a light meal and a gas card for registered participants, courtesy of MOISD.

I attended the ACE Interface Trainer Education workshop on January 24 at COOR ISD where I gained trainer credentials to present the Adverse Childhood Experiences information in our two-county area. While it is great certification to have, our two-county area is well ahead of some of the other counties when it comes to trauma awareness and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study thanks to all the efforts from MOISD personnel and the collaboration with our community agencies. The Parent Advisory Committee held their second meeting on January 18 with only two

members in attendance. We hope to have full attendance in March as we welcome the new representative from Evart.

Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:

Winter Greetings! Now that the holidays are over, we start thinking forward to a couple of upcoming events such as the “100th” day of school and March is Reading Month. I look forward to sharing pictures of these events in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, I would like to feature our MoCI High School Classroom this month:

Teacher, Lisa Nielsen
Paras, Christine Yeager, Annie Garner, and
Mr. Kim Jenkins

This high school classroom currently has 18 students who have special education eligibilities of either Moderate Cognitive Impairments (MoCI) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). They are a wonderful and active group of teenagers ranging in 9th – 12th grades. In addition to academics, this classroom is great at helping out in and around the building and MOISD campus. They also know how to have fun. We've recently purchased “Just Dance” software for the Nintendo Wii and these students have some moves!

At Christmas time, students and staff spent some outside time playing in the snow. They built snowmen, snow angels, and even tried snowshoeing. They had a blast right here on the snow covered playground at the Ed Center.



When the Career Center needed some help keeping the vending machines full, they didn't have to look far to get some help. This job gives our students a "real" task to complete and they enjoy seeing how the students at the Career Center benefit from the work they do. The students participate at their own skill level in order to be as independent as possible. Other building/campus jobs include delivering mail every afternoon and raising the flag each morning.



Special Education Supervisor Carol Phelps Reports:



Exploration and play are a big part of learning in Mrs. Clay's early childhood preschool classroom!



Mrs. Csernai and friends making and drinking shakes during an Early On home visit.

Supervisor of Special Education Christy Miller Reports:

Physical Therapy - Physical Therapy is considered a related service within a student's IEP. In addition to providing direct physical therapy services, a physical therapist may provide consultation services to the educational team. Our successes include students improving their gross

motor skills, improving their function in the school setting, and improving their participation with peers in gross motor activities (in the classroom, on the playground and in gym class).

The Physical Therapy department has been busy this year. We have three full-time Physical Therapists and service a wide variety of students. The Education Center purchased a new Easy Stander in December which has many benefits for non-ambulatory students. Standing can assist with skeletal development in children, help normalize respiratory function and improve circulation. Having the ability to bear weight also helps to strengthen bones and muscles.

As a department, we have worked on creating a document to help us be more efficient at writing Common Core aligned goals and objectives in students' IEPs. Common Core Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what a student is expected to learn. Writing Common Core aligned goals and objectives helps us to understand how we can best help a student receiving our services reach their goals.

We would like to share the story of a young boy (just over three and a half) who has been receiving physical therapy services. He was born premature and has a complicated medical history. When he was first seen by Early On, he was not sitting or rolling. He has since learned to sit, push himself into sitting, shuffle on his bottom, pull to standing and walk with hand hold assist, a walker or using furniture for support. He is starting to take a few steps independently and has gotten strong enough to be off of his ventilator for several

hours at a time. We are very excited by his progress so far!

Elementary EI Classroom at Crossroads

- The Elementary EI classroom team has been working hard to adjust to the abrupt, sudden changes we've had in the last few months. From rearranging the classroom, to purchasing new lockers, building new relationships with Gen Ed teachers, and bringing in new curriculum, the staff and students are becoming acclimated to their new surroundings and feeling more 'at home' at Crossroads Charter Academy. We have recently introduced the students to Core 5 through LexiaLearning, which I believe will be an excellent source of learning for the students, as well as an opportunity for them to build their confidence to become independent learners. My students strive to complete their tasks in order to earn free time, where they work together to complete fun challenges (as pictured)!



Supervisor of Special Education for US 10 Pat Craven Reports:

Pineview Welcomes Mr. Ben Bryant



The US 10 Corridor Schools and Pineview Homes welcome our new teacher, Mr. Ben Bryant. Mr. Bryant comes to the MOISD as a highly respected and referred teacher. He is a 2006 graduate of Evart High School and obtained his teaching degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 2012. Mr. Bryant has previously taught at the Timberland Alternative High School in Farwell as well as Farwell High School. Mr. Bryant's family has a strong history in the field of education. His mother, two aunts, sister, cousin, and wife are all teachers! Mr. Bryant was attracted to the position at Pineview Homes because of his great desire to have a lifelong impact on the lives of children, especially children who have needs that might be above and beyond that of a typical student.

Mr. Bryant is another local talent that has returned home to serve the youth of his community. His desire to be a great role

model and positive influence in the lives of young people was paramount in his obtaining this position. We are excited to have him on our team. Mr. Bryant has a strong background in mathematics and is looking forward to creating real-life math situations that can help his students obtain a love of numbers, problem solving, and learning. In his spare time, Mr. Bryant enjoys the outdoors and competitive athletics. He and his wife have two children, ages two and nine months. Welcome, Mr. Ben Bryant, to our MOISD Family!