



Career & Technical Education

Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

Public Safety Color Guard Honors Veterans



MOCC Public Safety Color Guard rendering honors to the Colors during the National Anthem

On May 21st, the MOCC Public Safety Color Guard had the privilege of posting our nation’s Colors during the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight dinner reception at Ferris State University. Sixty-Five Veterans from World War II and the Korean War participated in the event traveling to Washington D.C. to visit their respective memorial the next day.



From left to right: Anthony Nawrot (Morley Stanwood), Sareania McGinnis (Ewart), Medal of Honor recipient Specialist 5 James McCloughan, Zandrea Geranen (Ewart), and Devon Guth (Chippewa Hills)

In addition to posting the Colors, students were privileged to meet James McCloughan. Mr. McCloughan is a Michigan native who earned the Medal of Honor while serving as a combat medic in the US Army during the Vietnam War. In 1969, then Private First Class McCloughan saved the lives of 10 US Soldiers and one Vietnamese interpreter during a 48-hour battle on Tam Kỳ and Nui Yon Hill. What a rare opportunity for our students to meet one of only 70 living Medal of Honor recipients and a true American hero!

Joint CTE and Special Education Program Earns Award

The Transition to Success (T2S) program received the 2019 Michigan Occupational Special Populations Association (MOSPA) Secondary Program award at the 44th annual MOSPA Conference. The conference provided opportunities for secondary

and postsecondary educators to address issues facing special population students today through the sharing of best practices across the state. This year's conference theme was 2019 Growth Mindset...Closing the Skills Gap.



Wendy Chupp, Student Services Coordinator; Linda Jones, Teacher Consultant; and Caleb Martz, Assistant Principal accepting MOSPA Award

T2S is a joint venture between the CTE and Special Education Departments aimed at expanding opportunities for at-risk students. These 10th-grade students attend MOCC and rotate through multiple programs spending several weeks in each. They focus on career development activities, including career awareness, career exploration, and building career readiness skills. Each local district is able to send three students per session. Most students choose to return their junior year and enroll in the CTE program most closely aligned to their interests and aptitudes. The educational development plan (EDP) through Career Cruising guides this process.

Students Meet with Regional Employers at Artworks "What's in the Truck" Exhibit



Students talk with representatives from the Utility Supply and Construction Company of Reed City

In addition to displaying some of their items at the Artworks "What's in the Truck?" exhibit from April 4th – May 28th, students from the Construction, Innovative Engineering, and Welding programs recently visited the exhibit and met with regional employers. Students were able to not only view the exhibits from these manufacturing and professional trade organizations; they also engaged in meaningful discussions about career opportunities. The other exhibitors that participated in "What's in the Truck?" were Crankers Brewery, Galloup Guitars, FSU HVAC program, Hamtech Inc., Hanchett Manufacturing, Haworth, Ice Mountain, Original Footwear, Reed City Group, Simonds International, US Marble, and the Utility Supply and Construction Company.

Technology

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

Project MOONSHOT Update:
The Mission of equity has started with the launch of Moonshot. Over the last month, we have worked with Phil Stier, Director of Technology for Morley Stanwood Schools, to help them with gathering student surveys.

Phil anticipates completing the study of student home access soon. In the next phase, Merit and MSU will analyze the results. From there, the group will work on an Infrastructure build-out plan.

The Michigan Moonshot project encompasses a three-phased approach to addressing the homework gap issues in our state.

Phase One: Access and Availability Data
Collection (where we are at today)

- Develop a citizen scientist crowdsourcing approach to assess the "homework gap" at a more granular level
- Share information statewide and become active nationally

Phase Two: Infrastructure Build Out

- Foster public/private partnerships
- Establish unbiased community connectivity teams to provide expertise
- Seek and support planning grants and one-time construction subsidies

Phase Three: Societal Impact Studies

Equity for Students and the Homework Gap:

There have been many national reports about the Homework Gap and how it is not moving forward even with the work done nationally with the Internet communications providers. Morley Stanwood Public schools recently made the national magazine DA District Administrator in the May 2019 edition of the magazine. They were named as one of several schools in the state of Michigan working on this project of student access to the Internet outside of school.

Link to the article (<https://bit.ly/2MtRI5c>)

State Assessment (M-Step Testing):

M-Step State Testing is completing on May 31st. We know when things are working well, we can tell as it looks like magic, and when no one knows there is work happening in the background. The staff that makes this look simple is Mike Schonert, Rose Kipfmiller, and Chad Marshall. They worked well in advance of the testing window opening and helped to finish this school year in good order.

Summer work:

The tech team is ramping up for summer work to begin as soon as school is out. Due to snow days, this will be a very short summer. We have some projects that will help move the ISD forward by keeping the equipment updated and by the replacement of old devices. One of the more significant projects will be replacing 50+ printers and copiers across the MOISD. The LEA schools have communicated to us their needs for summer tech. help. We have worked with the MOISD MOP Co-Op program to bring a college intern student on board to help with those LEA summer projects. Zachary Cousineau will be working with Morley Stanwood Community Schools and Chippewa Hills School District to meet his 150 hours of the internship program through Baker College. We want to welcome Zachary onboard, and we look forward to working with him.

General Education

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

The General Ed Team:

The General Education Team is beginning to wind down for the summer. Our main priority is to be in the schools, working with teachers, so the summer begins a time of planning and evaluating our goals for the next school year. We have a few learning opportunities in the month of June, working with teachers on the Essential Practices and Curriculum Review, and then we begin again in August, participating in local onsite learning, with a few schools before school starts.

An update to an initiative that began over a year ago is the HIL Project for Literacy in our elementary schools. The HIL Project is a US Education Department grant received by Western Michigan University and the Reading Now Network. The grant provides funding for instructional rounds, the Essential Practices in Early Literacy, and specific literacy supports for schools demonstrating low proficiency scores on reading, along with high poverty rates. Three of our districts chose to participate in the project. We had our initial meeting with the HIL Project team on May 29. The timeline for our work begins this fall, with real work in the schools beginning in January 2020.

Early Literacy:

The following is a shared story from Evert Elementary, written by Literacy Coach, Cathy Wirth:

Mrs. Hopkin's is using the Essential Practices to guide her work by making real-world connections to her student's reading and writing. While

reading Wonder by R. J. Palacio, the students were moved by the need to support, not only each other but others in their school family. As a response to the text, and the need to fulfill their call to action, the students decided to write a persuasive letter to the building principal asking for permission to raise money for a swing to accommodate a student who requires the use of a wheelchair.



Mrs. Bailey, Community Members, and Mrs. Hopkin's class

The students decided to make cotton candy to sell as one way to raise money. The class project will be featured in the local paper Talk of Town and on 9&10 news in the upcoming weeks.



Cotton Candy Making

Math and Science:

As our year wraps up, our Math Science Consultants, Mr. Wyn, and Mr.

Fox have been spending time in our local's schools, working with students. Mecosta Elementary Principal, Mr. Kyle Talicksa, has invited our team out again this spring for his students to participate in a variety of electricity and robotics activities. Students rotate through different stations and learn about electricity, circuits, along with basic coding and using of Spheros. Spheros are small "robots" in the shape of balls, that students program on I-Pads. The programming, completed by the students, control the Spheros.



Students Using Spheros

Another annual event for our Math Science team is Project Wet. Sponsored by Ferris State University and the MOISD, area third-grade students invade Hemlock Park for a day of activities surrounding how the water cycle impacts their daily lives. Mr. Wyn and Mr. Fox support the learning, along with Laura Forbes, an FSU instructor. The annual event is a local favorite for our third-grade teachers.



Project Wet Participants

We are sad, with an additional feeling of pride, to share that Mr. Larry Wyn, will no longer be with our General Education Team. Although a loss of funding began the shift, Mr. Wyn has accepted a position working for the Michigan Department of Education, based out of Grand Valley State University. He is a part of the Mi-STEM State Initiative. Mr. Wyn will now be a voice for the students and teachers of Michigan for the Mi-STEM initiative. We know he will continue to be a resource for our locals and the MOISD.

Behavioral Specialist:

The year is also wrapping up for our behavioral specialist, Michael Basauno. He continues to assist Dr. Mark Sloane at G. T. Norman Elementary and Evert Elementary. Michael is also working with our elementary and middle school E.I. Programs. He will be offering two sessions of CPI training in August for MOISD and local teams of teachers and administrators. A training session for TCI is also being planned for early fall. Michael will continue his training in the CHAMPS initiative in Oregon this July; the

learning allows Michael to be a trainer and coach for the positive behavior supports taught by the Safe and Civil Schools programming.

Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

State Monitoring:

The MOISD will participate in State monitoring by being part of Cohort 0 beginning in early fall. As the sub-recipient of federal monies, we accept the responsibility to ensure FAPE for all special education students. Therefore there are safeguards, policies, and procedures that need to be in place and followed. Being part of Cohort 0 allows us to go through the monitoring as the first group, but it will not come with findings, such as being out of compliance in any area. We are afforded the luxury of getting our practices in order with guidance from MDE-Office of Special Education. Carol has done a tremendous job of preparing us for this monitoring through the General Supervision Grant. The activities such as Educational Benefit Reviews and workshops she has done in the local districts have all been a proactive attempt to get us where we need to be before the state comes in. It will be a great deal of work, but we hope it most worthwhile as well.

State Determinations on State Performance Plan Indicators:

The ISD will receive its determinations on the State Performance Plan Indicators which will be an aggregate of the districts. Our determination will be based upon both compliance and results. This is an entirely new way of "grading," and will provide excellent opportunities to discuss Tier 1 instruction and special education students' need for exposure to the general education curriculum together with supports and interventions. The new process and our score will be presented on June 26 when Mr. Locke and I attend MASA in Midland.

Early On:

Congratulations to our incredible Early On (EO) team for meeting 100% of their requirements for Part C in the 2017-18 school year. The team is doing such a great job, and we are seeing incredibly positive outcomes for students who have received EO services. We will have Cortney Clay go full time to Early On for next year, and we will need two sections of our Early Childhood Special Education Program due to the increase in little ones with disabilities. We will be posting for a new ESCE teacher for the fall.

Retirements / Leaving / Replacements:

Kathy Connor and Merrilee Hill Kennedy have decided to turn in their passwords for EdPlan, while Emily White and Karis Blubaugh are moving closer to loved ones.

We have already hired two new speech therapists to fill those positions, and Jaime Knape will take the place of Karis Blubaugh as School Psychologist, and we've posted Merrilee's position.

Micky Payton accepted a position with BRPS, so we moved Karen Bolton for the interim from US10, but we found NMU Wildcat Stephanie Snow to fill that position for the fall!

Reimagine/Moving MoCI :

We have not given up on our quest to move our MoCI programs to a local district. Those conversations continue, and we are hoping for a positive outcome for the 2020-21 school year. We will begin revisiting those conversations by watching and working with the study guide that accompanies the documentary **Intelligent Lives**. Many of our ISD neighbors are having screenings of the movie already. Intelligent Lives shows how we take a number—a student's IQ score—and determine what they can accomplish, where they should be educated, and what their future will look like based upon that number. Our hope is to help others understand that their IQ score is not what defines them.

Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:

Spring is a busy time at the Education Center. Several notable events took place:

On May 10th, we held our annual Parent Luncheon. Parents were invited to join their son/daughter for a pizza lunch and desserts. This year we were fortunate to get a good deal on our 55 pizzas from Pizza Hut. Students from the Adult Transition Center-2 (downtown/Ms. K's) did most of the setup and serving, and the staff brought in baked goods. As an incentive to return the RSVP slips on time, slips received by the due date were entered into a drawing.

This year, thanks to a donation from the Parent Action Committee, we purchased a variety of safety items for our drawing. Items were purchased with the idea of having important information available in case of emergencies. Items included: seatbelt covers, shoelace clips, wrist bands, window decals, and even temporary tattoos. Who knew there were so many options!



Immediately following the luncheon, we held our 4th Annual Community Agency Event. The purpose of this event is to inform parents of what agencies and services are available in the area. After each presenter gives a summary of what they offer, parents

and students are welcome to stop at each table for more information and/or to ask questions.

This year, we would like to thank the following agencies for participating: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Advocating for Resources in the Community (ARC), Community Mental Health (CMH), Michigan State University Extension (MSU-Extension), Special Olympics, HOPE Network, Mecosta County Probate Court, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), and Joy Paquette from the MOCC Public Safety Program.

A special shout-out to Joy for helping with the prize drawing items and for bringing awareness of "Smart911" to families. Smart911 is a program in which parents can create a private safety profile for their children. In case of an emergency, first responders/law enforcement have access to important information such as disability/health/communication limitations which will help them assist the child/young adult during a crisis situation.

Speaking of connections with the MOCC, it was great (and yummy) for Jennifer Upham/Culinary Arts to bake special hedgehog and graduation hat cookies for our post-graduation reception. The entire Cosmetology class attended our graduation ceremony in honor of Caleb Maxson, Adult Transition Student who has been doing job training for the "Cos"

classroom this year...what a great collaboration!

This year's MOEC graduation ceremony went very smooth. Although it was a smaller class this year, it was obvious the impact these students have had on staff and their peers...there were a lot of emotional moments. Our new sound system made a big difference for all who attended and the "live feed" into classrooms allowed all staff and students to witness the event. Thanks to the tech department for their support!

Lastly, the MOEC did a traditional send off to our Special Olympic Summer Games participants. Students made posters and lined the Ed Center halls to cheer on the athletes as they get ready to travel for their individual and team events. Good luck to Rachel Young, Stacy Taylor, Travis Taylor, Karissa Clark, Jovante Swartz, Breanna Hurst, and Brianna Wolak.





Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:

"2019 MAETC Conference"

Contributed by Pete Segar, GED Coordinator

Have you ever asked your supervisor if you could attend a conference and then have them say "Sure!" "...and while you're at it, "submit a proposal to present!" Four weeks after submitting a proposal, I received word that I was selected to present at the 2019 Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference (MAETC). On May 2nd, I had the honor and privilege of presenting to my peers at the MAETC held at the Eagle Crest Hotel and Conference Center in Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The 2019 Michigan Adult Education and Training Conference, recently held at the Eagle Crest Hotel and Conference Center, offered an excellent opportunity for networking with other adult educators, tutors, support staff, and administration, as well as colleagues from workforce and community partnerships. The

MAETC included keynote speakers from the MDE, educational sessions and much, much more. The conference goal was to maximize participant knowledge and skills and offered continuing education credit, shared best practices, and promoted collaborative opportunities.



The theme of this year's conference "Educating Today for Tomorrow's Careers" was hosted by Talent Investment Agency (TIA). The conference supported exhibitors by providing maximum exposure to showcase their products and services to secondary and post-secondary professionals from across the state of Michigan. The conference showcased various exhibitors which increased our opportunity to meet leaders in education and provided for many, many take-a-ways!

All presentations revolved around Evidence-based instructional strategies; Program Management, Curriculum Design and Contextualization, Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs, Building Career Pathways and IET programs with WIOA partners. Partnership strategies with assessments that truly connect the workforce including "Employers" and "Correctional Facilities."

The title of my presentation, Ready! Aim! Empower! Focused on our GED Programming Success along the US 10 Corridor. The scope of this presentation was to identify ways to fulfill student educational needs...a TEAM effort! Preparing students for success in the workforce and identifying ways to achieve a positive end result. Resources were also shared and I demonstrated techniques on how to "Supercharge" individual classrooms with "Strategic Classroom Planning" with proven GED resources. Overall it was a short-interactive-presentation on the effective use of available online resources geared for student success in the GED Program.

"Thanks Pat Craven! And a special shout out to Cathy Wirth, Larry Wyn and Sarah Jordan for helping me prepare for this presentation." This was definitely a Golden Opportunity to showcase what we do best along the US 10 Corridor while maintaining the mission of the MOISD ***"Helping Schools Help Students." Go Hedgehog's!***

- Pete Seager, GED Coordinator

US 10 Teachers Maximize On-Line Learning Program:

The students along the US-10 Corridor participated in Moby Max's "The Great Spring Party" competition. Students worked on increasing their skills in reading, writing, and math and earned points by answering problems correctly. Their hard work paid off!

The top two classrooms that created the most points during the two-week contest won gift cards to have a class party. In first place was Sarah Jordan's classroom and in second place was Karen Bolton's classroom. Both classrooms decided to use their gift cards to have an ice cream social! Best of all, Moby Max has offered to create a special contest just for the MOISD! In a few weeks we will get to celebrate these students' hard work again!

Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:

Assistive Technology:

The assistive technology team has been working hard this year with local districts to revamp the assistive technology model within the MOISD. The new model supports locals in taking the primary role of providing assistive technology services to students through the IEP team. Work this year has included training in assistive technology tools and procedures, creating new assistive technology processes, and ordering new items for the AT lending library. Goals for the coming year include training in the most effective ways to "evaluate" the need for AT service, how to accurately document AT needs and services, and continued work on the AT lending library with the intent of making it more user-friendly and accessible for local districts.

Big Rapids Middle School EI Room Changes:

This week, the Big Rapids Middle School classroom for students with emotional impairments found a new home within the middle school. Previously located in the 7th-grade hallway at BRMS, the new location in the enrichment wing allows for a more private entrance/exit, closer access to the cafeteria, and a slightly cozier feel. Thanks to Big Rapids administration and facilities as well as MOISD facilities and technology department for helping the classroom to get settled into its new home!

In addition to a new home, the BRMS classroom will have a new lead teacher! Stephanie Snow, a recent graduate of Northern Michigan University, has accepted the position as lead teacher for the classroom and will have her first day in the classroom on June 4th! Stephanie will be joining members of the MOISD and local districts in Portland this Summer to be trained in the CHAMPS. Welcome to the MOISD, Stephanie!

Speech Therapy Department-Comings and Goings:

The MOISD speech department will be saying goodbye to two therapists at the end of the year. Long-time MOISD employee and veteran speech therapist, Kathy Connor will be retiring at the end of this year. Congrats to Kathy and best wishes on her next adventure! Thank you for your years of service to our

students and families! Also leaving is speech therapist Emily White, who joined us as a new speech therapist this year. Emily will be moving to the thumb region to be closer to her fiancé'. She will be dearly missed.

Two new speech therapists have already been hired to fill the vacancies. Jordyn Stromback and Cortney Krugman will be joining us this fall. Welcome ladies!