

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD DEPARTMENT UPDATES

June, 2018

*“Helping Schools
Help Students”*



Career & Technical Education

Director Mike Miller Reports on CTE News:

Graphics Students Excel at MITES (written by Chris Jensen) - Graphic Communications students from the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center recently competed in the regional and State of Michigan Industrial Technology Educators Society (MITES) competitions held in Fremont and Lansing respectively.



Back row, left to right: Chad Cady – State 4th Place Spot Color Offset Printing and 6th Place Spot Color Offset Printing; Ethan Barstow – State 2nd Place Process Color Offset Printing and 7th Place Spot Color Offset Printing; Callie Kelly – State 1st Place Spot Color Offset Printing; Ivy Fudge – State 1st Place Process Color Offset Printing & 7th Place Process Color Design; and Ryan Spehar – regional 4th Place Screen Printing.

Front row, left to right: Nick Houde – regional 1st Place Single Color Design; Caitlin Fitzgerald – regional 3rd Place Screen Printing; Bobbie Sheldon – regional 5th Place Process Color Offset Printing; and Carrie Vandermaas – State 4th Place Screen Printing and 5th Place Process Color Offset Printing.



Back row, left to right: Erin Lindeman – regional 3rd Place Process Color Design; Arianna Mooney – regional 6th Place Process Color Offset Printing; Mitchell VanScoyoc – regional honorable mention Process Color Design; and Blake Thurston – regional honorable mention Process Color Design,

Front row, left to right: Lindsey Lenon – regional honorable mention Process Color Design; Hannah Breedlove – regional 5th place Process Color Design; and Larae Roberds – state 9th Place Process Color Design.

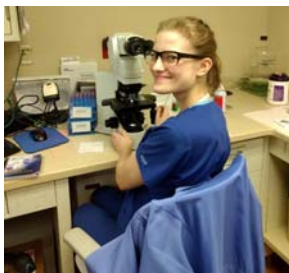
CNA Students Certify (written by Cindy Derscheid) - After many hours of lab, academics and working in a Nursing Home for 21 hours, 14 CNA students were able to test right here at the Career Center! This was huge due to several who had transportation barriers. Previously, they would be assigned to go to Ludington, Mt Pleasant, or Grand Rapids, and this was often difficult for them. Students commented about how nice it was to test in their own environment with which they were familiar.

There are two parts to the CNA test to become State Certified: a written academic assessment and a hands-on skills portion. All students who tested passed the academic portion. Four students will be retesting on the skills portion.

CNA is a high demand job with openings including positions in assisted living homes,

nursing homes, adult foster care (AFC) homes, clinics, hospitals, and home health agencies. We're excited that we have new CNAs who will be able to work in our own community with the skills provided by MOCC. Several students have already applied at area Assisted Living and Nursing Homes and some will begin this month. Other students shared that they will be applying in the areas where they will be attending college for nursing, and working as a CNA to support themselves through school.

Allied Health Students Participate in Work-based Learning (Written by Kelly Williams) - Students had the opportunity to complete 16 hours of WBL at Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City Hospitals in various departments such as Emergency Room (ER), Obstetrics (OB); Operating Room (OR); Same Day Surgery; Ambulatory Infusion; Diagnostic Services, Therapies (Physical and Respiratory, Critical Care Unit; Physician Offices; Skilled Nursing and Laboratory. This allows students the opportunity to experience a health care setting as well as participate in patient care.



Meceola Tech CNA Graduates Showcase Their Skills (Written by Linda Ward) - Meceola Tech held a celebration on May 15 for the CNA students! These students completed the 114 hours of theory, lab, and clinical training and took the State Exam on May 29. Five of the students were Career Connect students who are affiliated with Adult Education Programs from Mason Lake and Fremont. These five students are completing their GED/High School Completion in addition to gaining a CNA State License.



Four long-term care facilities (Metron, Spectrum Health, Grand Oaks, and Laurel) and one assisted living facility (The Brook) were participants in the CNA showcase. These representatives were able to review the students' resumes and talk to the students directly about their training and goals. Students were offered the opportunity to schedule an interview with the participating facilities.

Corrections Students Graduate From the Academy! (written by Mark Danielson) - The Mecosta-Osceola Career Center's Corrections Academy is the only one in the state approved to operate for students in high school. All other academies are either operated by Sheriff's Offices or colleges throughout the state.



The Corrections Academy began with 12 students; 11 students are on track to certify. Nine Students took and passed the Local Corrections Officer Physical Agility Test (LCOPAT) in Scottville, Michigan. These students have also taken the written test. Results are sent to the individual and are still coming in. Once recruits pass both of these tests, they will be fully certified. Multiple agencies that are hiring have been in contact with our instructor. Students could land full time employment within weeks.



Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

The GSRP school year ended in mid-May. These kiddos look like kindergartners now. Here are some photos from their end of year celebrations!



We have been working on teaching team assignments for the 2018-19 school year as we have several staff changes. We are confident that the assignments will best serve students and our local districts for the 2018-19 year.

At the end of the year our data is showing the following information about our GSRP students:

We directly served 150 students in our ISD operated classrooms

9.2% had an IEP

78.7% ended the year showing kindergarten ready on our COR assessment

Writing and Listening comprehension had the lowest scores on the average at 4.08 (kindergarten ready is anything above a 4)

In every area, the data shows at least one year of growth from the first trimester to the final trimester.

In our homeless world, we are ending the year with 523 students being identified as homeless during the 2017-18 school year (this is with 70% of districts reporting at this time). This number is significantly lower than prior years, but I anticipate the rest of the district to get their data into the system and others will be adding to theirs as well.

June and July are busy months as we continue with GSRP applications and begin the selection process once the State Aid bill passes. These summer months may have a slower pace, but are filled with much planning and preparation for the coming

year. We have a couple of open positions in GSRP to fill.

Thanks for your continued support!

General Education

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

The Gen Ed Team - Our team continues to stay busy throughout the ISD. We are currently meeting to plan our goals for next year. Our team is planning for learning that will center on The Essential Practices in Early Literacy, The Next Generation Science Standards, Math Recovery, and combined learning with the Special Education team on topics like Trauma. Our team continues to sit on State Education groups including the Michigan Collaboration Hub (formally TRIG Steering), the Data Hubs Advisory Team, the Reading Now Leadership Team, and the Early Literacy and Math Task Force Teams.

Early Literacy



Amy Posey cooking for Weidman Lunch

In her role as PBIS Coach, Amy has been supporting Weidman Elementary staff as they prepare for next fall's implementation of Tier 1 School-Wide PBIS. The Weidman school leadership team has been planning and training other staff members on the implementation plan and getting ready for the PBIS "KICK OFF" that will happen at the start of school next year. They ended the year with a staff BBQ to acknowledge all of the work put toward the effort.



Cathy Wirth has been working in Evert Elementary, helping the students avoid the summer slide. Mrs. Salisbury's class was able to "shop" for books to take home over the summer! They will be able to keep over twelve donated books each! Our literacy coach facilitated the book club beginning in January ending with the summer book selection.



Evert Elementary student with her book

Cathy is beginning to work with individual teachers as they arrange their classroom

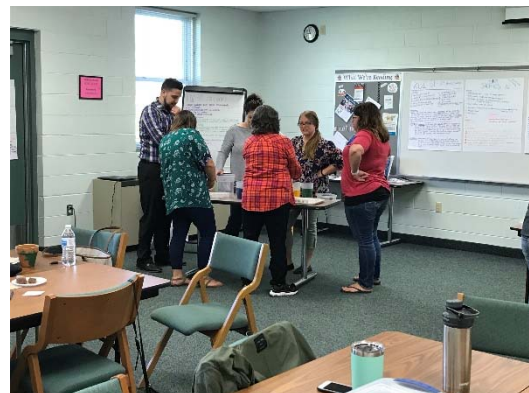
libraries and has met with Superintendent Howard about working with individual teachers on the Essential Elements and their current reading program. The goal is alignment between the Essentials and the reading program.

Math and Science



Justin Fox with GSRP Staff

Along with providing support to our local teachers, the General Education team has provided supports and learning opportunities to the GSRP team. This month our Math/Science consultants provided hands on and inquiry learning in the areas of math and science. The standards and teacher resources were provided by Karen Roy, so the content matched the expectations of the program. Teachers and support personnel participated in the activities. The feedback was very positive.



Larry Wyn with GSRP Staff

Behavioral Specialist - We are continuing to provide supports to the locals through individual consults with the building principals, along with observations of students, as requested by the principal. These observations provide the principal and teachers with more data for creating a plan for the students. This summer will be a busy time, as Michael attends the CHAMPS training to become a trainer for our ISD. This positive behavior supports learning will benefit all of our own teachers and staff, along with the local districts. Several of our local districts will also be attending a variety of CHAMPS learning opportunities this summer. Michael is also attending a Mindfulness Training, allowing our ISD to have knowledge about this practice and be another resource for the local districts. These initiatives, which are joint Special Education and General Education, match the MOISD goal of supporting our schools in the areas of trauma, behaviors, and poverty.

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

M-Step 2018 spring testing Wrapped Up- This was the most successful M-Step testing year at a local level and at a state level. M-Step has cleaned up the issues that were seen at a statewide level in the past few testing cycles. Also the Cyber-attacks we saw earlier in the year on our systems were eliminated with the addition of the MiSEN circuit that we were able to successfully negotiate with the State Education Network. We also had a Charter Spectrum router that started to fail days before testing. We were able to get them to replace the unit in a timely manner so it did not have a significant impact on student learning. The local technology directors should all be commended for an

outstanding testing window and a job well done with no network outages reported.

Community Broadband Network -



We have continued to work with Sheryl L. Mase, Director of the Mid-Michigan Library League. We have helped her to coordinate with six other ISDs who then worked with the 48 local schools and their local library. The ISDs that make up this group are TBAISD, WMISD, Manistee ISD, WSESD, Coor ISD, and GIRESD. We helped to make a contact list with them so that the ISDs could collect information from the 48 libraries that are in the school district boundaries. Each local school district that is in the library service area will be contacted by the Mid-Michigan Library League to see if they would be willing to connect the local library to the local schools. This would help improve service to the community and lower the library cost for network services. This savings could then directly impact student literacy in multiple ways. The direct savings could be used to help in the purchasing of books for the libraries. Another way that this could help would be by giving the students with no internet access a good location to do homework by offering an after-school program for homework and internet access. This would help to further eliminate the homework learning gap by reducing the barriers to access of the internet at home.

Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks (MCAN) - Jake Martine, the CTO of Ferris State, Jennifer Heinzman, Executive Director of the Mecosta Chamber of Commerce, and I were asked to give input with 25 other people from the northwest

region of Michigan. We were invited to West Shore Community college to meet with Governor Snyder's office staff about a project called "Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks" (MCAN). At this meeting, they took input from the anchor organizations on how best the MCAN plan could help to support the communities. We are optimistic that this will help us with our Midwest Michigan Broadband Groups (MMBG) mission to further enhance the educational instructional experience of our students. This could be accomplished by increasing access to broadband in the rural communities in our counties.

We believe we are positioned well with our preplanning that has happened in the last year. We have built the relationships needed in advance of this project with community organizations. The full MCAN report is due to Governor Snyder by August 1, and then it will be released shortly after to the public. We are hoping to be able to take advantage of this funding in the next E-rate cycle by doing an RFP for a first phase of a fiber build. We are looking at putting out bid proposals for a project this November depending on when the E-rate process opens.

We are in the process of doing some pre-project planning by looking at the available fiber in the community that is owned by the city, Ferris State University or other organizations and to see how we can help to reduce the cost of building a system by working in collaboration to support the community. The MCAN plan could be a great opportunity to help springboard and complete a fiber project within the region.

Phase II of the MiSEN has officially started at a state level - What does this mean for the MOISD? The first step in this process will be an accurate fiber inventory of all the ISDs in the state. This is needed to

see what kind of Wide Area Network connections are currently in place. Within the MOISD we have Big Rapids, Morley Stanwood, Evart, Reed City, and Crossroads all with 1 Gbps fiber connection. These schools purchase leased Wide Area Network connection from Charter Spectrum to the MOISD in a group purchase. Some of the districts have private fiber connecting their buildings at a local level and some have leased connections for an added cost. The cost of a leased fiber circuit is about \$970 a month before the E-Rate discounts. There are six of these leased connections within the MOISD. These links cost the schools about \$70,000 a year before E-Rate. They also impede education by limiting the local schools to 1 Gbps vs. the 10 Gbps that is available on the MiSEN Wide Area Network. Chippewa Hills is the only district that doesn't have fiber to all the buildings; instead, it has a wireless Wide Area Network. We are looking at ways to connect the local schools to the ISD. This type of circuit is referred to as Last Mile connection. We are looking at a program to leverage the 80% E-rate funding program by covering the remaining 20%. By completing this project, the money spent on these network connections could then be reinvested in student educational needs. We could save an estimated \$130,000 a year across the MOISD.

Special Education

Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:

Students Apply Science and Math in the Field - Students at Pineview Homes on the US 10 Corridor have been actively engaging in the new lessons and learning applications being taught by Mr. Ben Bryant. During the

late winter months, Mr. Bryant's class picked up soils from Morgan's Composting in Evert and planted a variety of seeds to get a head start on the growing season. The students started the early growing process of pumpkins, squash, green beans, peas, sunflowers, and carrots. It wasn't long before the students could begin to see the fruits of their labors with little sprouts emerging from the cups of soil in the classroom.



Mr. Bryant was able to incorporate seed germination, proper soil mixing, and regular water and sunlight care into his lessons of science and math. A few weeks ago, Mr. Bryant and his students were able to transfer the new plants into their boxes outside of their classroom. Now, students are watering their vegetables daily along with weeding the beds. Students are also charting growth rates and making predictions regarding the growth potential of each plant. One student said, "I love seeing my learning in action. It's okay to put it on paper or see it on the computer, but it is awesome to see it happen right in front of your face."

Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:

In May the last all-itinerant meeting was held to review, celebrate and share accomplishments from the year and to say thank you to our retirees. Every year we post a brag board and invite the itinerants to share their "wins" from the year. It is a way for them to share growth and accomplishment stories of the students that they work with and to celebrate a successful year as their accomplishments are not always easily seen through test scores and grades. Despite that, their quiet successes enable students to engage with their school culture, classmates, teachers, and curriculum. A few stories of growth include a therapist who noticed that a student's behavior was not just behavior, but rather an unidentified case of Turrets syndrome. This helped the school community to view the student's behaviors and needs in a whole new way. Another story is of a speech therapist who discharged 10 students from service this year due to significant progress. One therapist spoke of their peer to peer group that went from 2 peer supports to an entire class! These are just a few of the wonderful things that are happening with our students in the local districts!

