

MECOSTA-OSCEOLA ISD DEPARTMENT UPDATES

March 2020

Our Vision: Impacting our community through high-quality educational programs, services, and learning experiences.



“Supporting Schools and Student Achievement”

Career & Technical Education

Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

Career Expo

This year's Career Expo was perhaps the best one yet! Over 60 employers packed the Miller Room and were eager to interact with our students.



A complete list is below.

Agriculture

- Select Sires Inc.

Arts & Communication

- MP Marketing
- Big Rapids Radio Network

Construction

- Utility Supply and Construction Company
- Windemuller Electric
- Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC
- Gerber Construction Company, Inc.
- Michigan Paving and Materials Co
- Rieth-Riley Construction Co.
- Schepers Concrete Construction

Government

- Big Rapids Department of Public Safety
- Big Rapids Fire Department
- Ferris Police Department
- Mecosta County Corrections

- Mecosta County EMS
- Mecosta County Parks
- Mecosta County Sheriff's Office
- Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity - Workforce Development
- Michigan DNR Law Division - Conservation Officer
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Michigan State Police
- Michigan Works! WC
- US Census Bureau
- US Customs and Border Protection

Healthcare

- Altercare
- Bella Senior Care & Private Duty
- Family Health Care
- Metron of Big Rapids
- Spectrum Health
- Transitional Health Services of Fremont

Hospitality/Human Services

- Cost Cutters
- CranHill Ministries
- Springhill Camps
- Smartstyle
- SportClips
- Manocobblue

Manufacturing

- Anchor Wizard
- Bandit Industries
- Big Rapids Products
- Cadillac Fabrication
- Hamtech
- Hick's Lake Grinding
- Michigan Potash and Salt Company, LLC
- Morbark LLC
- West Michigan Pallet

Military

- US Army
- US Marine Corps
- US Navy
- US Air Force
- US Army National Guard

Trades Unions

- American Line Builders Apprenticeship & Training (ALBAT)
- IBEW Local 876 (Lineworkers)

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- IBEW Local 275 (Electricians)
- Iron Workers Local 25
- Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters
- Operating Engineers Local 324
- Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 174 HVAC Service Technicians
- Sheet Metal Workers Local 7

Transportation

- Bader & Sons Co.
- Belle Tire
- Lakeside Motor Sports



Melissa Hauger from the City of Big Rapids shares interviewing best practices during the HR panel

Additionally, students participated in three breakout sessions aimed at sharpening their career readiness: a human resources panel, an alumni panel, and a hands-on leadership/problem-solving activity. In preparation for the expo, students were putting the finishing touches on their resumes and cover letters, participating in mock interviews, and sporting their best during dress for success days. Many thanks to Career Services Coordinator Jill Ray and Assistant Principal Caleb Martz for taking the lead on the planning and preparation for this event.



Mr. Fox leading the alumni panel discussion

MOCC Hosts Business After Hours

On February 20th, we hosted the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. This event is held monthly from 5:00-7:00 PM and takes place at various Chamber members' establishments. Our Culinary Arts program provided a delicious spread of appetizers and desserts that were enjoyed by the nearly 50 guests we hosted.



Delectable dainties provided by Culinary Arts

The networking with our community's business leaders was priceless for our staff members. Additionally, we were able to share all the amazing opportunities for students in our CTE programs. Several of our guests are MOCC alumni and couldn't believe how the programs have evolved and were thoroughly impressed with all that we have to offer.



The Starting Place Restaurant was nearly full with guests for Business After Hours

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General Education

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

General Education continues to support our local schools in a variety of initiatives, including early literacy, math/science, and behaviors/mental health. We also sit on numerous statewide committees, including the Early Literacy Task Force, the Math/Science Consultants Network, MiCIP Advisory, the State Data Hubs Network/Advisory, and other related projects. Our showcase this month will focus on the HIL Project in three of our local districts and the MiBLSI (or MiMTSS) initiative at Chippewa Hills School District.

Early Literacy

Amy Posey is continuing to support several schools by coaching grade levels using the alignment of GELN Literacy Essentials with core reading series and Michigan Core Standards. She has been attending the HIL (High Impact Leadership) Facilitator training, learning the process and principles of the HIL project, six of our local elementary schools are currently engaged in this project. Amy is learning research-based leadership principles and practices for school renewal along with strategies and processes that achieve high integrity and fidelity implementation. The goal is to use this new knowledge to support and work alongside ALL of the local schools, not just those involved in the HIL project, to help strengthen the implementation of the GELN Literacy Essentials. Amy and Tonya will be supporting many of the HIL schools as

members of the teams that are conducting the "School Renewal Rounds" as part of the initial stage of the HIL project.



Rounds beginning at Mecosta Elementary

Math/Science

Justin Fox continues to support our local schools in the area of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Last month he spent time with Mr. Bennett's STEAM (STEM+Art). Teams of students used I-Pads to write code and program Spheros (small circular robots) to maneuver through mazes. The activity is a great start to the future robotics teams in our local high schools.



Students at BRMS-Coding/Robotics

Behavioral Specialist/Mental Health Supports

Last month, staff members from our local schools and the MOISD participated in the

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four-day TCIS training, facilitated by Michael Bausano and Mary Corder. TCIS provides research-based guidelines for schools to implement and reduce the need for high-risk interventions. The techniques presented in TCIS are designed to provide the skills, knowledge, and confidence school staff need to help students in crisis and to be in control of the situation to bring about change and growth. Much of the training/learning focus on de-escalation techniques and interventions, in addition to a variety of holds.



Staff practicing on a specific hold

The attendees were a combination of MOISD itinerant staff and BRMS staff. TCIS is another example of special education and general education collaborating on initiatives. The techniques and learning can impact all students that may be considered “high need or at risk.”

Special Education

Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:

Instructional Art
Contributed by Sandra Norton

The gentlemen in the Boy’s Treatment Unit participated in an art experience with Renee Sanders from MSU Extension. Renee worked with the gentlemen one step at a time and taught them about colors, blending, stenciling, and using silhouettes. This was a very relaxed time, and everyone enjoyed creating individual pieces of art. The next step for the gentlemen is to connect some of the art lessons with day-to-day living. An example of the connection would be comparing the blending of colors and the blending of personalities. The idea behind this is to discuss the changes in the colors as they are meshed and blended and the changes in our environment as different personalities are meshed and blended. I can’t wait to see what connections/conclusions come from this art experience.

The gentlemen will be participating in a second art experience with larger canvasses. They are very excited to make more “proud of my abilities” creations.



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Students put together a 100 piece puzzle!

Special Education

Special Education Supervisor Jenny Knopf Reports:

100's Day

We celebrated 100's Day on Wednesday, February 5th! Students had the opportunity to rotate through classrooms and participate in fun 100's Day based activities. Some of those activities included 100 exercises, building with 100 things, and making a 100 Day crown!



Students strung 100 fruit loops!



A student drawing 100 triangles!

March is Reading Month

March is Reading Month is here!!! The MOEC kicked off the month by serving Green Eggs and Ham in recognition of the anniversary of Dr. Seuss's birthday. This year's theme is "**Under the Sea.**" There will be many special activities this month for students to participate in at school, including joke of the day, door decorating, guest readers, and spirit week. There are also activities for students to do outside of school. Students will earn prizes for filling up their BINGO cards by completing different reading activities at home!

New Gym Equipment

Students have really been enjoying some new gym equipment! The adjustable t-ball stand is one of Branden's favorite things,

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and our young friend Garrett really likes the scooters!



Respectfully submitted by Jenny Knopf

Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

Staff is eager to share with you what is transpiring in their classrooms as the push is on to ensure our little ones are prepared with the self-help, social-emotional, and academic skills that will move them toward a successful kindergarten experience!

Student-Focused Efforts

Contributed by Bethany Wieber, GSRP Lead Teacher

Since returning from Christmas break, we have been working hard on preparing our maturing preschoolers for Kindergarten. The expectations are ever-rising, so we work hard to build a strong foundation. We work on many of the essential skills they will need to move forward through the next few months. Some of these skills include pencil grasp, writing, zipping coats (getting all snow clothing on and off by themselves), letters, counting, shapes, communication skills, etc.... Other extremely important skills we are teaching this time of year are how to cough and sneeze into their elbow, how to properly wash their hands and even how to blow their noses. There is a lot of learning happening and we are thankful for the low number of snow days to help solidify these skills into their long-term memory.



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**Talking is Teaching
Impacting our community through high-quality educational programs, services, and learning experiences.**

Contributed by Tricia

Early literacy learning is an eight-year process that begins even before babies are born. The Great Start Collaborative and Parent Coalition, Mecosta Reads, Family Engagement Team, GSRP Staff, and many other community partners are in the beginning stages of using the community-wide early literacy messaging campaign; Talking is Teaching to help educate parents on the importance of early literacy and expand on what they are already doing with their kiddos. Research shows the brain develops more rapidly in the first five years of life than at any other time in life, and our focus is to make that time count by making small learning moments big! We are aiming to ensure parents are confident in their ability to be their child's first and best teacher by doing three simple things: talking, reading, and singing to their child every day. Stay tuned for more Talking is Teaching information and watch for Talking is Teaching materials floating around town!

The GSRP Teaching Staff and Family Engagement Team have been working very intentionally to make literacy learning fun and exciting for the kiddos we serve. Using interactive books such as Don't Push the Button!, giant board books, story props, reading stories to each other and toys, and letting the students play teacher and "read" a book of their choice to the class are just a few of the ways our staff have been doing an excellent job of helping students develop a love for books and learning.

Reading aloud to young children is a habit that is essential in developing reading skills

in children. While children enjoy being read to by their parents, it is also important for kids to hear from a variety of readers. Siblings, teachers, classroom guests, and public figures all play a key role in teaching children the importance of literacy. With that being said, if you would like to read in any of our GSRP classrooms, feel free to reach out to our teachers! Remember: the more interactive and theatrical you make your reading performance, the better!



The pre-school application season is upon us. We jointly host several enrollment events in each district with our NEMCSA Head Start partners. Families only need to come to one event. They are notified of what programs they are eligible for once that process is completed. Actually acceptance into programs happens in early July or once the Governor signs the State Aide Act. Enrollment specialists are being trained in Talking is Teaching and will be sharing materials and books with all families that come through the application process. Families will also receive key tags



to enroll in the online developmental screening process using the Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) to help give them a jump start on understanding where their child's development is compared to national norms.

On the homeless front, we continue to work with our partners at Mckinney-Vento.org to develop additional learning modules and enhance existing units for liaisons across the nation. Our data tool will be migrating to this new platform this summer and will be part of a suite of tools available for our liaisons to help them meet the requirements of their job--all in one place under one sign-on. This platform will offer liaison credentialing training, community sections for conversations across the state and nation, data collection, and other training tools for key staff in local districts. We will roll out this new tool with our local districts over the summer. We are beginning conversations with Data Hubs to plan for systems integration soon.

On Valentines' Day, a small team from the MOISD traveled to Mesick Consolidated Schools and provided a Poverty Simulation for their district. Ionia County ISD Superintendent + two staff members, and Cadillac Public Schools joined us to provide a powerful experience for district staff. Cadillac Public Schools is planning a similar event for their district during their opening days for the 2020-21 school year, and Ionia County ISD has purchased a poverty kit after their liaison participated in our Poverty Simulation at our annual homeless conference and wanted to see for themselves how it worked before hosting several events in their area. Mesick and Cadillac fall under our MV Homeless Grant. I have been helping to

support Ionia due to their grant coordinator being off on medical leave. Our local district liaisons are reporting lower numbers of homeless for the second year in a row.

The rest of the year is going to zoom by us before we know it! Some dates/activities you might want to mark on your calendars:

April 20--Jim Gill, renowned musician, author, child development, and family engagement expert will be performing in various locations in our area--more details to follow!

- **April 21--Celebrate You!** An event celebrating and supporting childcare providers in our area at FSU in the University Center beginning at 6:30 PM
- **April 25--Family and Community Expo** at Big Rapids Middle School from 10-2
- **May 7--Summer Kick-Off Carnival** at Eastwood--lunch from 11-2. . .come flip hot dogs, enjoy carnival games. . .we are expecting around 1000 folks to attend!

Thanks for your continued support!

Technology

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

The MOTech group is working collaboratively on data implementation of Michigan Data Hubs (MiDataHub). The Data Hub is a student warehouse. The MOTech group is quickly becoming a lead group in the state by helping with the implementation of the data projects.

The following are projects that we are helping to move ahead with by troubleshooting and piloting:

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- MiLearn
- MiRead
- Xello
- UIC Automation
- EdPlan - PCG
- KRA
- MICIP
- Bus Routing

- MOISD
- Reed City Area Public Schools

METL Cybersecurity

We have started having discussions about security. The tech group will develop a list of items that we need to address and then see what resources and capacity will be required to complete the task. In this ISD and the region, security will need more attention as events across the state and nation continue to increase.

Library Internet connections to the MiSEN

We have worked with Reed City Area Public Schools on helping to connect them to the Michigan State Educational Network (MISEN) through the community anchor institutions. We met with Big Rapids City Library and Morton Township libraries.

SNIFE-IT

MOP Co-Op is creating another collaboration that will help these locals to keep track of assets with Snipe-IT. This product helps to keep track of asset management and life cycle of technology hardware. We can save each district money with this collaborative purchase.

JitBlt - Help Ticket System

MOP Co-Op has had a collaboration of districts that using the JitBlt help ticket system. The following participate:

- Cross Roads Academy

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