



Career & Technical Education

Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

Information Technology (IT) Students Earn Industry Certifications - Contributed by Roger Meinert

The IT program is off to a great start in its first year at MOCC. A near-full PM class of 16 students makes up this year's inaugural class, with over 1/2 being juniors who indicate they plan to return for the 2nd year.

Mr. Meinert is an approved Microsoft Testing Proctor, and students began taking certification tests at the beginning of October. Here are the results so far:

Microsoft Office Specialist

- 13 passed Microsoft PowerPoint 2016
- 4 passed Microsoft Word 2016
- Microsoft Office Specialist Expert
- 2 passed Microsoft Word 2016



Mr. Meinert has applied to be a proctor for CompTIA IT Fundamentals+ certification and is awaiting approval. Students should begin testing for their IT Fundamentals+ certification in January.

Four junior students and one senior student have decided to attempt their CompTIA A+ certification this year. A+ certification is the expected accomplishment of a two-year completer of the IT program. Finishing A+ in one year is an ambitious endeavor, and Mr. Meinert has begun working with these students to achieve this.

When the four juniors complete their A+ certification this year, they will choose the direction of their studies for their senior year of IT. Two students have decided to study programming, one will study networking, and one will study cybersecurity. Students who complete A+ certification their junior year could potentially finish the CC IT program with 10-15 nationally and globally recognized IT certifications.

MOCC Hosts MOISD 10th-Graders for Get Your Career in Gear 2018

On Thursday, October 25th, nearly 600 10th graders from all MOISD high schools participated in Get Your Career in Gear (GYCIG) at the MOCC. Normally scheduled MOCC classes were not held on this day as our 10th graders participated in three 35 minute sessions of Career Exploration. MOCC teachers along with several student-helpers provided engaging activities for all students.



Before the event, Mrs. Chupp (formerly Iltis) coordinated with each LEA's counselor to schedule three MOCC programs each student would visit. Their choices were based on a Matchmaker assessment within our Educational Development Plan (EDP) software, Career Cruising. This process helps students narrow down their choices based on their interests.

From now until spring, 10th graders will have the opportunity to attend a full session of any program to determine if it's a proper fit for next year. The process of utilizing the EDP, GYCIG, and program visits has been very successful in minimizing transfers at the beginning of the school year and affording students the best chance possible of maximizing their career preparation opportunities while attending the MOCC.

Public Safety Students Mentor MoCI Students at Ed. Center

Public Safety students visited Mrs. Nielsen's MoCI classroom and worked with the students on drill and ceremony. Education Center students practiced standing at attention and saluting.



The two classes are planning additional collaborative events focusing on firefighter self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) operations. This mutually beneficial collaboration helps the Ed. Center students develop their social skills while MOCC students build career readiness and technical skills.

Culinary Arts Chili Wins Award

Culinary Arts Students' Chicken Chili won first place in the public choice award at the Big Rapids Downtown Business Association's Annual Chili Cook-Off at the kick-off of the annual Fall Festival.



The students' chili won out over more than a dozen competitors! Under the tutelage of Mrs. Upham and Mrs. Hallman, the students perfected the recipe. Several MOCC staff and students were at the event to support the team and enjoy some chili.

Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

Raising Readers!

Early Literacy-- Train the Trainer taking place in Kalamazoo on November 15 & 16 and December 10 & 11. General Education was able to support Jesissica Wimmers attendance using some of their grant funds. Better yet, the other two General Education Early Literacy Consultants were also approved to participate in the training!

The focus of these modules is on the 0-PreK set and Jessica has great relationships with child care providers in the region, so we will be able to ensure children in our community have some exposure to strong early literacy practices before they get to our doors. I just had to share this picture with the words of the student in one of our GSRP classrooms.



*"I'm just going to read Mrs. Hampel."
"I can't read yet, but this books good."*

Goal Setting:

Staff have been working hard on our collective goals related to literacy and behavior. At the end of this month, they will be selecting two from each category that we will focus on. We continue to support and move children forward in all areas; however, we will be making weekly commitments (to the team) related to these goals and checking in with each other using ZOOM technology (Thanks to Technology Director, Fred Sharpsteen) to see how we did on our commitments and supporting each other and celebrating our wins along the way. We use our "Dashboard" to monitor our lead measures to ensure our lag measure is where we want it do be at the end of the year. In this case, staff have indicated that on these specific measures X% of our GSRP students will measure school ready (four or higher) on the COR assessment by the end of their school year. I will be reporting on these measures each month so you can join us on this journey.

We had a successful Book Walk night in Big Rapids in October with over 250 people in attendance. We have two more happening in November. We also have several other events taking place--Landlord Luncheon, Poverty Simulation, Mom's Night Out, just to name a few.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Thanks for your continued support!

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

DataHubs:

The MOISD and Big Rapids Public Schools are working in conjunction with the DataHubs team on a couple of projects. The first is helping with Skyward integration in early warning systems for the 3rd-grade

reading standards. Second is integrating NWEA rostering. We have completed the function that looks up each student's Unique Identification Code (UIC) nightly. A UIC is a ten-digit code that uniquely identifies each student in the state.

PCG - EdPlan:

We have been working with Carol Phelps and the Special Education team on a data project. This includes exporting data out of Skyward and importing it into PCG. Last week, we were able to work with Joe Bouman (BRPS) to do a test run for the whole district. The test went very well. Once we complete some minor data entry work with PCG, we can look into moving this out to other LEAs. This has been a long-term project that will save office staff time and help with the accuracy of student data.

Firewall Project:

All of the firewalls that have arrived have been placed in the data center. We completed the core switch installation while keeping the area-wide network running. This can be likened to overhauling a flying airplane with no interruption of service. Without clear and concise plans and excellent communication from all of the LEA technology directors, this could not have been accomplished. Thank you to those directors for their cooperation and work. There is still more work to be done between now and winter break to finish cutting over the LEA schools.

MOISD Website:

The MOISD website transition has gone very smoothly. The change over to the new site happened just after school started. Over the next few months, we will be working on appropriate content formatting with those staff members involved in website maintenance.

Merit Networks and Project Moonshot:

We met last week with Merit Networks to talk about a project called Moonshot. Merit is working with Michigan State University and wants to find local schools that are willing to collect data about the student homework gap and internet access outside of school. They will be asking schools in rural areas of Michigan to do some real-world testing of the current internet infrastructure. Lack of internet access has created a gap in student learning across the country. We hope that we can help find solutions for this issue.

Changes to the MoTech Group:

Director of Technology for Chippewa Hills School District, Jim Canham, will be leaving the district. Jesse Jones, the technology coordinator for Crossroads Charter Academy, has been chosen to fill Jim's position. I would personally like to thank Jim for all that he has done for students.

General Education

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

The General Ed Team:



Local Teams at the MAS/FPS Conference

An annual event each fall is the Federal and State Programs conference, sponsored by MAS/FPS (Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists). A majority of our local districts sent a team or a representative to the conference, and we do our best to collaborate while we are there together. As the General Education Director, I share all documents and session materials with our curriculum directors, in case there are schools unable to attend. This year much of the learning surrounded the themes of differentiation and learning for all students. Several sessions were about poverty and trauma and helping to build the “tool box” for our teachers and administrators. Although slightly overwhelming, it was a great three days of learning for all of us.

Early Literacy:



Learning together at the Essentials Training

Amy and Cathy attended a four-day *Essential Practices in Early Literacy Institute* in Grand Rapids in September, along with several district principals and teachers to facilitate learning and

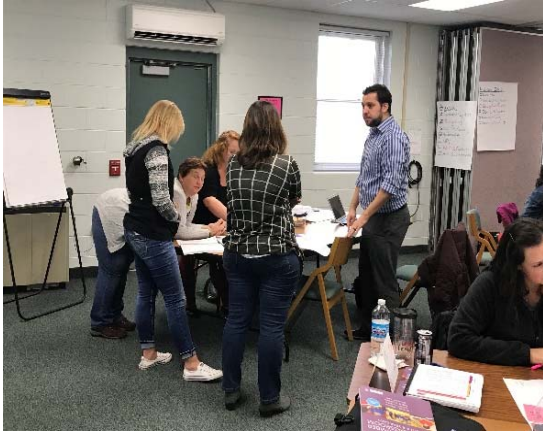
conversation. Between the August and September Institutes, all six districts will have had representatives from their district who have attended the Essential Practices training! They are actively working with the districts to deepen knowledge around the Essential Practices in Early Literacy. The first of a three-part early release professional learning focused on using data to drive small group instruction was held at Morley Elementary on September 21 and will continue on November 9 and January 18.

Cathy is working in depth at Evart Elementary and has initiated a Literacy Leadership Team there, (all who attended the institute). Cathy, Amy, and this team will be heading to Ludington October 25th to participate in the HIL (High-Impact Leadership) Project Instructional Rounds to learn about the Instructional Rounds process for the possibility of using this tool at their building. Cathy and Amy are also working with Jenny Rounds, and the Evart READS program to facilitate learning for mentor instruction.

Math and Science:

This month was the kickoff of three different Math Recovery Workshops. Ten instructors joined the Math Recovery Intervention Specialist workshop, at the start of the month and will continue their learning throughout the year, with one-on-one work with students and additional workshop days focused on a deep dive of early numeracy. Our online Math Recovery Fractions group started their after-school workshops and will continue through December. Educators will develop a deeper understanding of fractions, be equipped with assessments, and deliver activities to support struggling students. Lastly, our Add+Vantage Math Recovery Course 1 for Tier 1 instruction kicked off with 20 participants. They started their first two days learning about early numeracy progressions, assessments, and analysis of student thinking. These

instructors will return in November for an additional two days to learn how to incorporate activities within the classroom to fill gaps in students' understanding.



Math Recovery Learning with local teachers

Behavioral Specialist:

Michael Bausano continues to be busy, as he works to not only build the capacity of the local teachers and administrators but his own capacity through professional learning.

Michael provided individualized classroom observation and staff consultation in support of students at Morley-Stanwood Elementary, Crossroads Charter Academy (Elementary), G.T. Norman Elementary, Weidman Elementary School, and the MOISD EI Categorical Program (Elementary) at Crossroads Charter Academy. He is also providing more focused behavioral learning in the areas of Managing Escalating Behaviors and CHAMPS (Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation and Success) classroom management for teachers at CCA. Michael is spending time coaching the three new behavior support paraprofessionals at the three elementary schools in the Chippewa Hills School District.

Project Outreach:



Leadership Team with Davey Muise

Each year the MOISD “sponsors” the Project Outreach collaborative, with all six of the local high schools.



Local Students in a Break-Out Session

Last spring, the leadership group decided they want to impact every student in the ISD. The team planned an event with a national speaker, Davey Muise, and planned for Mr. Muise to attend all six high schools for an assembly! The theme for the year, “The Improvement Movement,” focused on how to not only improve and accept yourself but how to impact and support the community, within their schools. Along with bringing in a national speaker, the leadership team contacted the Leadership Program at Central Michigan University, and six CMU students, along

with their adviser, helped facilitate the breakout sessions.

Mr. Muise spoke about self-awareness, depression, being a friend, and acceptance of all people. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. He visited each high school over a three-day period. Students waited in line to take pictures and share stories with Davey. He listened, took selfies, and shared social media accounts with students. As a former school principal, I am not sure I have ever seen a speaker have a more personal impact on students, during an assembly/event. Davey is a musician, and he has offered to come back, on his own cost, to help sponsor a concert with his band and local bands from our high schools. The Project Outreach team is beyond excited at the opportunity.

A grant was written, by the General Education department to help cover the costs of the speaker. Without the grant from Mecosta County Community Foundation, we may not have been able to bring in this amazing speaker. The Project Outreach team would also like to thank Mrs. Jennifer Upham and the culinary team for a delicious lunch, the entire facilities/maintenance team, and technology team for all the setup work, and the Career Center team for adjusting their daily schedule to accommodate the event! The event can only be described as a complete success, and we look forward to our next project!



Career Center Culinary Team

Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

I attended our first State Directors' meeting in Lansing where we discussed the "needs improvement" determination that the State received on the State Performance Plan indicators. It was helpful to have the explanation from MDE (Michigan Department of Education) on the formula for the determinations. We were also informed that we met the target in COMPLIANCE, but fall very short on RESULTS for students with disabilities. This is where the components of our General Supervision Grant will be a great start for evaluating our processes in order to improve outcomes for students in our area.

Our team has conducted three Ed Benefit Reviews as part of our General Supervision Grant. This has been a great opportunity for ISD and local district staff to work collaboratively on a common understanding of compliance and results. Educational Benefit Reviews serve to help staff understand that a student's Individualized Education Plan's (IEP) purpose is to provide the support necessary to access the curriculum, thus gaining educational benefit. It has been rewarding to see the "a-ha" moments with participants during the process.

Our Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CHAMPS) plan is being slowly and methodically implemented throughout the ISD area. We discussed the components of reporting and implementation stage at the first Principals' meeting and our itinerant

teams are scheduling meetings with the district leadership teams to discuss the process moving forward. One of our districts has already sent out the parent informational letter and completed the K-1 assessments to determine groups/interventions. While it is an enormous amount of work up front, we're excited to see the collaboration and problem solving that is already happening.

Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:

Daily Reading Efforts Improve Scores

Students at US 10 Corridor Schools - Pineview Homes, continue to see major increases in their reading ability, with direct instruction being provided by teachers and Title staff. All teachers on the US 10 Corridor are now fully trained to implement strategies based on Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) and work to supplement daily instruction with such learning strategies. These strategies, along with intensive one on one assistance from the MOISD's Brenda Widman, have aided students in their quest to close the achievement gap in areas of reading comprehension and literacy.

Mrs. Widman reports that a number of students that she works with individually have experienced significant gains in their standard scores and their confidence is boosting. "Kids are reading grade-level appropriate books and are excited about reading for the first time in their lives," Mrs. Widman reported. "It is so fulfilling to see their eyes light up with confidence as they see their personal growth. "I am so excited for them and to be working with them."

Along with daily strategy instruction, many students meet with Mrs. Widman in the

READ 180 program to further along their reading abilities. Most students meet with her daily for periods up to an hour of extra instruction.

Congratulations students, Mrs. Widman, and teachers! Way to make a difference!